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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Session Concludes 16 Sep

King Hassan II Gives Speech

LD1609183891 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1632 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Address by Moroccan King Hassan II to the final session of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit from the Royal Palace in Casablanca on 16 September—live]

[Text] Praise be to God and prayers and peace be on our master, God's messenger, and his family and followers.

Brother leaders of the countries of the Greater Arab Maghreb, gentlemen:

Our agenda was full of resolutions and issues about what should be submitted to our governments or legislative authorities in order to achieve complete harmony in the fields awaiting our political will.

As I said yesterday, the political will is there. Therefore, we have to give the greatest stimulus to our administrations and our legislative and administrative laws in order to make them compatible with our aspirations and aims. God willing, we will relentlessly march forward in order to achieve this compatibility between aspirations and reality.

As we considered the structures, this group of leaders decided to introduce a basic amendment to the constituent law of the AMU. As you know, nothing becomes a law unless it is submitted to the Presidential Council, which is the council of the leaders, and until it is unanimously agreed by the leaders. However, by practice, study, and experience, it became apparent to us that whenever it is possible to reach a unanimous agreement, that is best. If unanimity is not possible, then the resolutions should be adopted first by compromise and second by a majority vote, except in the two cases of war and peace, in which case the resolutions should be adopted by absolute unanimity.

I think, as my brothers think, that this step will give us flexibility, better means, and wider resources. This is because the future is known only to God. There are new developments in the world, whether the Maghreb world or the whole world. All these things should give us enough flexibility to face up to these problems or to adopt the necessary measures.

Second, as you saw, the structures have been distributed. Each country now takes on one of the Maghreb responsibilities in a way that calls for pride and in a way which will make that country a real and sincere citizen of this great homeland, which is the Greater Arab Maghreb.

May God almighty inspire us all to fulfill these responsibilities in full and make us always rise to the level of these responsibilities.

We must bear in mind that the structures, wherever they might be and whoever might be responsible for them, are nothing more than structures for facilitating the mission. The comprehensive, absolute, permanent, and real responsibility is still on the shoulders of every one of us as individuals or groups.

May God almighty grant us the blessing of success and guide us to the best way. May He make us worthy of the good opinion of our citizens now and in the future.

My dear brothers, I wish you long lives and good health, and I wish your fraternal countries continuous growth and prosperity. Peace be on you and God's mercy and blessings.

Final Communique Issued

LD1609195191 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1617 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Final communique issued by Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit at final session held at the Royal Palace in Casablanca, chaired by Moroccan King Hassan II, read by unidentified official—live]

[Text] [King Hassan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The final session is now open and the resolutions made by this summit are now going to be read.

[Unidentified official] This is the final communique issued by the fourth ordinary session of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union held in Casablanca on 15 and 16 September 1991. In response to an invitation from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and pursuant of Article Four and Article Five of the treaty creating the AMU, the fourth ordinary session of the Presidential Council of the AMU was held in Casablanca on 15 and 16 September 1991, in the presence of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia; His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria; His Excellency Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, President of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; and Staff Major Abd al-Salam Jallud, representative of His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Fatih revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. His Majesty King Hassan II opened the work of this session with a speech in which he pointed out that this session is being held in international circumstances which, in the last months, have been marked by upheavals that led to radical changes involving nearly half the states of the world. Some of these involved Arab issues, primary among which is the Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty added that we in the Arab Maghreb should analyze these developments in order to face them or go along with them with inspiration from the wisdom of our peoples, the realities in our cultures, and the roots of the experience of the people, so as to be armed with the spirit of constructive imagination and to stick to principles in order to build a greater Arab Maghreb at the level we want and with the means that we must choose with precision, experience, and wisdom, so that the next century may not be imposed on us. We must be prepared for the next century.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia spoke. He stressed the need to achieve what has been agreed upon so that the gains of the union may be reflected on the Maghreban citizens. He underlined the role of the union in taking part in the restoration of the climate of trust in inter-Arab relations and in the defense of the fateful Arab issues, at the forefront of which is the issue of Palestine, a matter that enables the AMU to participate in the efforts of the peace process. In the framework of relations with regional blocs, the Tunisian President stressed the importance of the summit meeting due to be held in Tunisia at the start of next year between the union leaders and the leaders of the European states of the western Mediterranean. This meeting will continue the realization of a qualitative step in relations between the nine Mediterranean states. He also underlined that international economic changes call for an intensification of cooperation with the EEC and African groups.

After having reviewed the report submitted by the Foreign Ministers' Council on the progress regarding the edification of the AMU since its inception and the results achieved by the appropriate ministerial committees, the council expressed its satisfaction over the results of the structural committees of the union, which are a significant asset for the consolidation of the Maghreban structure and which deepen its strength. The council stresses the need to provide an impetus for joint Maghreban action for the aims of the union, in order to reach the stage of realization through speedy action by taking the necessary measures through the implementation of the union's resolutions and agreements.

Within the framework of striving to implement the union's programs and achieve its aims, the council called for holding a joint meeting between the foreign ministers and other appropriate ministers to look into the priorities for Maghreban action; to define the the practical stages to implement the Maghreban strategy for joint development; and to define the methods to enable the member-states to execute the agreements, treaties, and resolutions that have been adopted and that will be endorsed within the union's framework for achieving the supreme goals, including guarantee for freedom of movement, residence, employment, and ownership for Maghreban citizens.

The council adopted resolutions through which it defined the headquarters of the Maghreban institutions that have been established. They are as follows:

General Secretariat: The Kingdom of Morocco

Shura Council: The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Judicial Body: The Islamic Republic of Mauritania

The Maghreban Bank for Investment and External Trade: The Republic of Tunisia.

The Maghreban University and Academy of Sciences: The Great Socialist People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah.

A decision was made to adopt the draft agreements referred to the Foreign Ministers' Council by the specialized ministerial committees. A decision was made to adopt the recommendation of the Foreign Ministers' Council concerning the implementation programs.

The council called for continuing the work with a view to achieving food security and to encouraging the exchange of agricultural products between the countries of the Arab Maghreb.

The council also discussed the situation of the Maghreban resident community in Europe and expressed its deep concern about the harassment it experiences. The council decided to adopt a unified Maghreban stand to protect Maghreban rights and to ensure Maghreban security and dignity. For this reason it asked the council of Foreign Ministers to follow up this subject.

After reviewing the situation in the Arab world, and in line with the orientation firmly established during the third session of the Maghreban Presidential Council held at Ras Lanouf in March 1991, the council alluded to the positive initiatives that emerged in the relations between the Arab states since the resumption of contacts and consultations among them. The council calls on the Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union to work toward the revitalization of the Arab League institutions to perform their roles, with the aim of overcoming the painful ordeal experienced by the Arab nation, and to restore amity and solidarity among the brothers.

The council renews its absolute support for the Palestinian people and its valiant intifadah to practice its inalienable legitimate national rights, including its rights to return and to self-determination, and the setting up of its independent state on its national soil in Palestine with its capital as the honorable Jerusalem under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, its legitimate and sole representative.

The council also condemns the Israeli intransigence and the continuation of the settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. It calls for an end to the Jewish emigration flowing into Palestine owing to the grave dangers it poses to Palestine and the entire Arab region.

The council welcomes the efforts exerted to find a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this regard, the council follows with interest the exerted efforts to hold a peace conference in the region, with the aim of achieving these objectives on the basis of international legitimacy.

The council expresses its preoccupation with the sufferings to which the fraternal Iraqi people are exposed and calls for lifting the blockade imposed on it. The council also appeals to all concerned parties to solve the existing problems between them by peaceful means and fraternal dialogue.

The council examined the situation in the African continent, of which the Arab Maghreb is an integral part, and expressed interest in the developments that the continent is currently experiencing.

The council also expressed concern over the difficulties that still impede the path of social and economic developments of the African continent.

Within this framework, the council expressed complete readiness to set up fraternal and effective cooperation with African regional communities so as to attain common solutions to those problems.

In this context, the council entrusts the current chairmanship with continuation of contact and consultation with the West African Economic Community, so as to set up a framework for cooperation and solidarity on the premise of historical and strategic ties between the two communities.

The council also reaffirms its will to develop relations of dialogue and cooperation with the EEC and the Western Mediterranean countries in the service of common interests and by way of securing comprehensive development, security, and stability in the region.

The council called on the EEC countries to lift the forcible measures imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The expected Algiers meeting of 25 and 26 October 1991 between the AMU Foreign Ministers and their European Western Mediterranean counterparts, and the ministerial meeting with the EEC countries on 4 November 1991, will be appropriate opportunities to entrench dialogue, to give it shape, and to set up a framework for organization of cooperation and for determination of priorities, among which are the situation of the Maghreban community, food security, combatting desertification, technological cooperation, and treatment of the issue of indebtedness, which paves the way for convening a summit between leaders of the AMU countries and the European Western Mediterranean countries in early 1992 in Tunisia.

In the course of its treatment of the international situation characterized by rapid developments leading to drastic transformations, the council expressed hope that such developments will take place within fruitful dialogue and on the basis of legitimacy and that such transformations will positively reflect on developing countries so that these countries can make their contribution to dealing with the issues of development, cooperation, and security in a new world where stability, peace, and prosperity reign.

Algeria's Bendjedid Meets Various Officials

LD1609143791 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Casablanca, 16 Sep (APS)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today received at his residence in Casablanca in Morocco Major, Abd-al-Salam Jallud and Mauritian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. It is recalled that President Bendjedid has been in Casablanca since last Sunday for the Arab Maghreb Union summit conference.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Meets Perez de Cuellar

LD1509002191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general, Dr. Hamid Algabid, today met in Jeddah with the UN secretary general. Discussions during the meeting covered cooperation between the two organizations and ways of bolstering them.

The two sides discussed the latest developments of the Afghan question, the Middle East peace process, the Arab Gulf crisis, the Cyprus problem, and the critical economic situation in Africa in addition to the efforts being made by the United Nations for settlement of the Western Sahara problem.

With regard to the Afghan problem, a press statement issued by the ICO General Secretariat said that Dr. Hamid Algabid reiterated the ICO's support for the efforts of the UN secretary general to find a political solution to this problem particularly through the peace plan of 21 May 1991.

Dr. Algabid also expressed his pleasure at the joint U.S.-USSR declaration to facilitate the achievement of such settlement and affirmed the ICO's readiness to play a more vital role in the quest for a political settlement of the Afghan problem. In this regard, the two sides stressed the need to have their efforts complement each other.

The UN secretary general, on his part, said that the ICO has a role which it should play in this particular stage.

ICO's Algabid on 'Painful Events' in Somalia

LD1109203391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] expressed great regret over the tragedy that is still being experienced by the fraternal Somali people. In a statement in Jeddah today, the secretary-general of the organization made an urgent appeal to all the Somali groups to act in line with the aspirations of all those throughout the entire world who had committed themselves to work diligently to restore peace, security, and national unity to the whole of Somalia.

Dr. Hamid Algabid said that the painful events being witnessed in Mogadishu constitute a source of great pain and deep anxiety for the Islamic homeland. He said that these events have begun to weaken the hopes that had been generated by the reconciliation meetings which were held in Djibouti during the months of June and July 1991 under the auspices of President Hassan Gouled, and in Jiddah, following the generous initiative of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Allows Delegation To Meet Baker

LD1609203191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has announced that the PLO has agreed to a new meeting between a Palestinian team composed of national personalities from the occupied homeland, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the latter's regional tour.

The spokesman stated that the Palestinian team will submit to the U.S. secretary the Palestinian official position on the guarantees required from the United States regarding the peace process in the region. The Palestinian team will listen to answers from Mr. Baker regarding essential issues so that all elements necessary for decision making are provided for the forthcoming Palestine National Council session.

The spokesman added that the meeting is scheduled to take place at 1900 Jerusalem time, and that the Palestinian team will be headed by brother Faysal al-Husayni. The team will include Dr. Zakariya al-Agha and sister Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Al-Husayni Hopeful Before Meeting

LD1609203291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] On the eve of his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Jerusalem, brother Faysal al-Husayni said that the Palestinians are calm today because they have hope. If the peace conference does not take place, this means the failure of international legitimacy, a matter that would turn the occupied land and the Middle East into a jungle [ghaba].

Al-Husayni believes that the cause of failure, if it happens, will be Israeli obstinacy. He added that the damage of such failure would not effect Palestinians alone, but also Arabs.

Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the failure of the peace process would reward Israeli obstinacy and punish Palestinian flexibility.

Regarding reports on the U.S. Administration's unwillingess to provide a memo of guarantees to the appropriate parties, Al-Husayni said what matters is the content of the conference. There are numerous forms of guarantees that are different from those in a memorandum. Al-Husayni says that what concerns the Palestinians on the primary level is that the reference point for the peace talks would be international legitimacy and not balance of power.

'Ashrawi stressed that the Palestinians are eager to secure a U.S. response to their demands before the beginning of the Palestinian National Council session. She said: Failure to obtain a reply would make it more difficult for us to respond.

Official Comments on Meeting

NC1609210991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—An official in the Palestinian media office in Cairo has stated that the Palestinian delegation that met this evening with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem informed him of the official Palestinian views regarding the guarantees required from the United States on the regional peace process. The official added that the Palestinian team demanded specific, clear answers from Baker on the fundamental issues which the team asked him to clarify during previous meetings so that all this information can be made available before the Palestine National Council's coming session, scheduled for Algiers the last week of September.

The Palestinian delegation to the Baker meeting included Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, a university professor; and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, head of the Gaza Doctors' Association.

For his part, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and acting Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, has stated that there is no change in the Palestinian position presented to Baker today. It was only a reiteration of the commitment to the Palestinian invariable principles and to the international legitimacy, he added. He noted that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain the guarantees and answers that the Palestinian side had previously requested.

Al-Qidrah praised the firm stand adopted by U.S. President George Bush regarding the issue of loan guarantees to Israel and the postponement of the matter for 120 days. He described the U.S. stand as a truly positive indication of an independent will.

PNC To Elect New PLO Executive Committee

NC1609154191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A Palestinian source in Amman has reported that Yasir 'Arafat and the other members of the PLO Executive Committee will submit their resignations during the opening session of the next Palestine National Council [PNC] to pave the way for the election of a new Executive Committee.

The source added that the PNC meetings will be held in Algeria on 23 September.

Hamas Spokesman Cited on Differences With PLO

PM1309095591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Announces Details of Its Dispute With PLO"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced the existence of differences between it and the PLO over a number of questions, including political moves and the position on the Algiers resolutions on the peace process, saying that it has still not reached total agreement with the PLO.

The movement's representatives said at a press conference in Khartoum that PLO leaders who participated in the meetings held in the Sudanese capital 5 and 6 September under Yasir 'Arafat agreed on three major questions, which include: not conceding a single inch of Palestinian territory which total 27,000 square kilometers; jihad and armed struggle are the road to recovering the land; continuing the intifadah and regarding it as a red line that cannot be crossed; and that the Palestine [National] Council [PNC] elected from inside the territories and from the diaspora will decide the system of government.

Members of the Hamas delegation currently visiting Sudan, with the movement's official spokesman engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah as its leader and engineer 'Imad al-'Alami, who was expelled from Gaza eight months ago, and Dr. Muhammad Siyam, official in charge of the Islamic University, as members, pointed out that the differences with the PLO also include its approach to the issue and the peace question, as it says that its current moves are interim and do not nullify the integrated strategy for the liberation of territory, whereas Hamas insists on the total liberation of every inch of Palestine's territory and says that once the interim status is recognized it is no longer interim.

Answering reporters, the delegation's leader said that Hamas proposed to Fatah and Yasir 'Arafat the question of joining Fatah if it announces its commitment to the established principles and support for Islamic ideology.

He also pointed out that Hamas will not participate in the PNC meetings to be held in Algiers 23 September, using the excuse for not attending the mid-July proceedings of the committee preparing for the council's meetings, namely that the council was not elected legitimately. In this regard he pointed out that "PLO leaders say that it is impossible to do this, and we say that it is indeed difficult to do it, but not impossible. And that the council's present representation is an insult to the Palestinian people's intelligence and sacrifices."

Engineer al-'Alami said that agreement was reached between the PLO and Hamas delegation at the Khartoum meeting on a number of questions, that the PLO will study the options submitted by Hamas, and that further meetings will be held in coming stage to complete the talks which started in Amman. He pointed out that Hamas submitted three options, which include the formation of the PNC through election and total commitment to the people's will, and, if it proves difficult to hold elections, the movement will cling to its weight on the Palestinian scene and demand 40 percent of the council seats at least.

Sha'th on PLO-Jordan Talks, Peace Process

JN1509113991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1754 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Political Committee, by Rami Khuri, carried within the "Encounter" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening. Welcome to Encounter. We are very privileged to have as our guest tonight Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Dr. Sha'th is the chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, which is the highest decisionmaking authority of the Palestinian people, one of the organs of the PLO. [passage omitted]

Nabil welcome to Jordan, welcome to Encounter.

[Sha'th] Thank you very much.

[Khuri] Tell us first what you are doing in Jordan?

[Sha'th] Well, I am really part of the ongoing dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Jordan on all aspects of coordination vis-a-vis the peace process and the future relations of Palestine and Jordan.

[Khuri] This is an ongoing process?

[Sha'th] Yes, it is.

[Khuri] How would you describe Jordanian-Palestinian relations now?

[Sha'th] Very cordial and very cooperative, as they should be, and they have been really for some time. We face the same risks and dangers. We have both been really hurt as result of the Gulf war and its aftermath. And we both aspire to have our people in Palestine free, and overcome all the difficulties, particularly the burden of occupation. We want to safeguard them until they have a free country. And we want them in the future to join in a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, in the future.

[Khuri] The Israelis and sometimes, even the Americans, keep trying to play off Jordanian against the PLO, and they try to mix rivalries and suspicions. And of course it never really has worked. There have been awkward moments between Jordan and the PLO, political tension. But since the '88 Jordanian disengagement, I gather things seem to be on a good track. How do you judge the ability of the Israelis' to keep making mischief between us.

[Sha'th] They will always try to make mischief. But I feel confident that we have overcome that period and its difficulties. I think there is much more in common and much more realism on the parties. And since the disengagement decision, there has been more clarification of roles of each of the parties within cooperation and coordination that continues; I am confident this will continue.

[Khuri] The idea for a joint delegation keeps coming up as a possibility. Is this the most, the greatest likelihood?

[Sha'th] I think it is quite a likely possibility. It should always be with us. We should explore it and prepare for it. But I think it is only fair that we first try two independent but highly coordinating delegations. But if a joint delegation can solve all the problems that individual delegations cannot, why not? I think it should be on the papers.

[Khuri] So those are really the two options: independent delegations or a joint one?

[Sha'th] That's right.

[Khuri] The idea of a single Arab delegation is no longer being discussed?

[Sha'th] It is not anymore. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] It seems one of the problems is that we make all these concessions in the aim of getting a meaningful peace process going to achieve our rights. But as we make concessions, the Israelis and the Americans keep coming up with new demands. I mean now we've got the issue of the Palestinian negotiators. The Israelis says they can't be from Jerusalem. So, that's new, something new that they've come up with. So how do you... [changes thought] at what point does the PLO and the Palestinian people just say this is it, we do not make any more concessions. We've given you every concession that you have asked for in Israel and the United States. Let's get to the peace table and let's talk about land for peace?

[Sha'th] On the substance, we cannot any make any concessions. On the substance: The right to self-determination is sacred and respected by the international legality and by everybody in the world, even the United States now sees euphemisms like the full political rights of the Palestinians. But I think very clearly, very soon, a clear-cut definition of self-determination will have to be made. You cannot concede your inalienable rights. We cannot concede on the question of the total land occupied in 1967 to be liberated, including Jerusalem of course, the right of the Palestinian to sovereignty all over all these lands. And the right of the Palestinian to protect themselves in the peace, including a final stop to settlement activities and to brutal repressions. These are substantive matters that we cannot make any concessions on, anymore. What we are really discussing are procedures. And we will not accept procedures that will bias the substance by creating a precedence that cannot possibly be accepted. And that is why we are insisting on our right to form our own independent Palestinian delegation, even if we choose later to join it in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for the final process. We cannot see how two opponents sitting to negotiate, one of them forms not only his own delegation, but that of his opponents, or by setting veto rights on the selection of the membership of that delegation. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] From within the Palestinian national political perspective, there is a certain effervescence taking place. You have the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic groups and the conservative groups on the right. You have some people on the far left; ideological, secular extremists, or not extremists but extreme nationalists who say that negotiations will get us nowhere. And there is pressure, grass-roots pressure, I sense it from all over the Palestinian diaspora on the PLO, wanting the PLO to lead more decisively, or perhaps to simply clarify itself more. And generally there is a frustration. I think people feel that while we have taken, as you've explained, a very clear position for negotiated peace based on UN resolutions and international law, we are commonly portrayed in the West as being anti-peace, militaristic, violent, etc. How do you see the political trends within the whole Palestinian national movement?

[Sha'th] First of all, let me address myself to your very last remark. I think there is a game going that I call blame the victim. It is a game played by every repressor, by every victimizer. [passage omitted] Anyway, I think if you really, to be fair and honest, any so-called Palestinian extremist, who says: I do not believe in this peace process that is going on; has an excellent reason if he just reads Mr. Shamir's statements. I mean any Palestinian reading Mr. Shamir's statements and people around him in his cabinet—Sharon, Ze'evi, and others—just by reading their statements, you feel there is no hope. We are just being asked to give concessions and to accept restrictions on ourselves, and the party on the other side is not at all serious in going through a peace process.

[Khuri] So it is easy to slip into rejectionism and hopelessness?

[Sha'th] Absolutely, rejectionism is really a reaction to the extremism of the Israeli Government and its components, not a reaction to the PLO's real attempts to create peace. They are just telling us. You are going into this process, you have really any assurances that will work? I mean that is the question. And to that extent, I think that question should be answered by insisting on a minimum nationally acceptable red line for a proper start of the process and by a whole world pressure to get that process going and by an Israeli contingency joining in to put pressure on its own government to make it succeed. In the final analysis, as soon as our people feel that the peace process is hopeful, that it will bring some fruits, I think then the vast majority will opt for a peaceful settlement and will join hands clearly in supporting the peace process.

[Khuri] Because the vast majority has already expressed its opinion through the PNC resolutions, that we are willing to basically have a two-state solution.

[Sha'th] Absolutely, absolutely. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Elected DFLP Secretary General

JN1609085491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Sep 91 pp 13, 14

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] concluded its general national congress—the congress of Jerusalem—that was held in Amman this month by electing Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh as the front's secretary general.

A statement issued by the front in Amman yesterday mentioned that the members of the Political Bureau were also elected.

The statement said that about half the bureau members were elected from members inside the occupied homeland. However, the statement did not mention the names of those members. It mentioned only the following names of the bureau members from outside the homeland: Salih Ra'fat, Dr. Jamil Hilal, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, Mamduh Nawfal, 'A'ishah 'Awdah, Dr. 'Azmi al-Sha'bi, and Salim Dardanah.

The statement noted that the congress elected a new central committee comprising members from inside and outside the homeland. It also elected the central committee for democratic revision, and the central financial audit committee.

The congress addressed letters to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al- Sa'ih, and the unified national leadership of the intifadah, in addition to a special call to the front's organizations in Israeli prisons and detention camps hailing their heroic steadfastness and contribution to the work of the congress, despite their difficult conditions. The congress also addressed letters to the Palestinian factions, and the Arab national and democratic forces and parties explaining and clarifying the congress' major decisions and directives.

The final statement of the congress—the congress of Jerusalem—stressed the general trends of the DFLP on the political level, on the level of internal reform, and on the organizational level.

Discusses Split, Peace Process

JN1309111591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Sep 91 pp 1, 14

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] In a news conference in Amman yesterday, Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh said that differences between the two sides of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] reached an impasse. He stressed that the DFLP's third general congress, held in Amman over the past two days, elected a 16-member Political Bureau under his chairmanship. Half of the members are residents in the occupied territories and the other half are from the diaspora, he said.

For its part, Nayif Hawatimah's wing has considered 'Abd-Rabbuh's measures a subversive act and said the conference he is talking about is false and illegitimate.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh reviewed the mediations made by many people to end the dispute between the two sides. One of these, which produced no results, was made by a committee which included Yasir 'Arafat and Dr. George Habash, he explained.

He said: We are now ready to solve the remaining problems "with brother Nayif Hawatimah's group, face to face and on civilized and democratic bases." We are not in the business of having disputes with any national Palestinian party, as this would be a depletion of Palestinian efforts and national energies.

Noting that his group will continue to keep the name of DFLP, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the following were elected members of the Political Bureau: Salih Ra'fat, Mamduh Nawfal, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, 'A'ishah 'Awdah, Dr. Jamil Hilal, Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, Salim Dardunah, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. He, however, did not announce the name of the assistant secretary general, nor the names of Political Bureau members inside the occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh said: We are an independent Palestinian body competing with no one on the Palestinian scene. Ideologically, we believe in the scientific method and proceed from free and democratic values and from the values of our Palestinian national and pan-Arab heritage.

He added: We have abandoned the holistic ideology (Marxism-Leninism) and democratic centralism. We consider democracy, and political and intellectual pluralism the bases of our organizational structure. He pointed out that the other side's insistence on Marxism-Leninism was one of the points of contention between the front's two wings.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We are not addressing a single class or a certain social group; we consider ourselves a national, democratic, and progressive party for all Palestinians, regardless of their social affiliation or religious beliefs. This, he stressed, does not contradict the front's secular inclinations as accentuated by the Palestinian declaration of independence.

'Abd-Rabbuh continued: We believe in the need to enhance the role of the occupied territories in making national decisions and in the need for the people of those territories to participate in leading institutions.

He added: Politically, the front will continue the realistic national line based on the independence declaration and the Palestinian peace initiative. He stressed that this is in line with the national and international situation and circumstances.

He said that the future of any left-wing party now depends on its full representation of the national features of its country and cause, without this running contrary to general human values. He added: We will continue to adhere to the legacy, decision, and achievements of the DFLP, and will operate under the same name, the DFLP.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We will continue all forms of struggle, and we reject the Israeli and U.S. conditions that abolish the right to self determination, grants only civil administration, allow settlements, and control the formula of Palestinian participation through advanced approval of the names of the Palestinian delegation members and the exclusion of Jerusalem from any peaceful solution.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We cannot go to a conference that demands the exchange of land for peace, and, at the same time, allows the usurpation of the Palestinian lands and gives legitimacy to Israeli occupation. However, we do not want to block the road to any positive opportunity for peace.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that in order to unify the Arab position, a four- or five-party high-level conference of the Arab frontline states will be held two weeks after the Palestine National Council's [PNC] 20th session, and within the framework of the Arab League.

He said: The PLO and Jordan agree to continue joint action and cooperate on all levels, such as preparing the legal briefs for international law and legitimacy.

He denied that Jordanian and Palestinian officials discussed a return to the Amman agreement or confederation. He said: Confederation must be achieved by a free choice of Jordanians and Palestinians after the occupation ends and when the Palestinian people realize their right to self-determination. In short, we do not want a confederation on paper. We want a confederation between two states that actually exist.

He stressed that the PLO has not given a list of the names of the Palestinian delegation to any party. He said: This is entirely a Palestinian affair, and before submitting any list, we should at least receive an invitation, which is the main issue.

Regarding the political position of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] on participation in the new PNC, he said: The PNSF position is similar to that of sisterly Syria because there are close ties between the front and Syria. We hope to achieve a serious understanding with the brothers of the PNSF on the basis of Palestinian principles. For years, the PNSF has, regrettably, not participated in PNC sessions. This has weakened its status, while the PLO's status has not suffered at all. We hope that all Palestinian forces will participate in the next PNC session and without any preconditions.

Meanwhile, Hawatimah's wing—through Political Bureau Member Saji Salamah—has considered 'Abd-Rabbuh's action a subversive and divisionist one taking place at the most serious phase of the Palestinian national cause and does not only aim at harming the DFLP alone, but also, and principally, Palestinian national unity especially since it occurs just before the PNC session.

The DFLP's statement says that using the DFLP title and issuing statements in its name without any authorization does not only mean tampering with organizational legitimacy, but is also an encroachment on national Palestinian legitimacy. The statement says that Palestinian legitimacy means, first and foremost, the legitimacy of national institutions, the legitimacy of the mass and professional organizations and trade unions, and the legitimacy of the Palestinian factions.

The statement adds that this group convening a conference, which falsely claims to be the DFLP, constitutes a blatant challenge to the will of the majority of the DFLP's militants, rank and file, members, and martyrs in all arenas of Palestinian national struggle and throughout the life of the Palestinian revolution. It also constitutes subversive action aimed at misleading and confusing Palestinian public opinion for known political ends, the statement says.

Egypt

Mubarak, Gorbachev Plan Meeting in Moscow

NC1609214591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2128 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Moscow, which will take place in the last week of September, will last for one day. During the visit, President Mubarak will meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders to discuss the recent developments in the Soviet Union and the Middle East peace conference.

The paper adds in its Tuesday issue that President Mubarak's trip to Germany, which will take place on 16 and 17 October, might include another European country, possibly Austria, for one day.

Foreign Minister To Visit Israel 'Soon'

NC1609153391 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 15 Sep 91 p 6

[Report by Husayn Siraj]

[Text] I have learned that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will pay a visit to Israel soon at the invitation of his Israeli counterpart, David Levi. Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Fu'ad Sultan will pay a similar visit to Israel at the invitation of his Israeli counterpart, Gid'on Pat.

In another development, Israeli Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan will visit Cairo at the invitation of Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture. This will be Eytan's second visit to Egypt. Eytan visited Egypt with former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman when he was chief of staff.

The series of mutual visits by ministers in both countries will begin in the next few weeks as part of intensified contacts between the two countries.

A delegation representing the Likud Knesset members also will visit Egypt at the same time. The visit had earlier been postponed until the second half of October.

Musa Meets Visiting German Minister Spranger

NC1509123791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with German Economic Cooperation Minister Carl Spranger, who is currently visiting Egypt. The German minister described the meeting as fruitful and constructive and said that their discussion focused on issues of common interest, particularly the Middle East situation and the continuing efforts to further the peace process. He emphasized that Germany appreciates the positive role that Egypt has been playing to achieve peace in the Gulf as well as stability and peace throughout the Middle East. He added that Egypt's efforts are in line with those exerted by Germany and the United Nations in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Regarding Egyptian-German ties, he said Germany is working to back the Egyptian economy and that both sides want to further promote and consolidate their bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic sphere.

Spranger Meets Sidqi

NC1509173191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received German Economic Cooperation Minister Carl Spranger and his accompanying delegation at his office today. Following the meeting, Dr. Sidqi stated that the German official praised President Mubarak's foreign and domestic policy, adding that he discussed with him the excellent economic ties between Egypt and Germany. Dr. Sidqi praised Germany's backing of Egypt throughout the economic reform process. He noted that Germany is financing major Egyptian projects in the fields of electricity and telecommunications. The prime minister concluded his statement by noting that he reviewed with the German minister the recent political developments in Europe in light of the situation in the Soviet Union.

The meeting was attended by Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

Comments on Israeli Settlements

NC1509213291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2046 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—German Economic Cooperation Minister Carol-Dieter Spranger has criticized the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. He said that Bonn agrees with the European Community in viewing the Israeli settlement policy as the largest obstacle to establishing peace in the region and as an illegal policy which cannot be accepted.

At a news conference held at the Marriott Hotel this evening, Spranger noted that Germany will not respond to Israel's request for DM10 billion [deutsche marks] as compensation for the Jews, especially if these funds will be allocated for the construction of more settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Spranger lauded the development of relations between Egypt and Germany in various fields, especially in economic and technical cooperation. He said Egypt now occupies first place among the states receiving development aid from Germany.

Spranger added that Germany has written off Egypt's debts to Germany, amounting to DM5 billion. Egypt now has the right to withdraw the assets which were frozen in Germany, which amount to DM1.1 billion, in light of the improving economic conditions in Egypt as a result of the economic reform programs Egypt has begun to implement.

The German economic cooperation minister expressed his country's welcome and appreciation for Egypt's efforts, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, to achieve political security and stability in the Middle East and to continue to attain comprehensive economic and social development.

The German economic cooperation minister arrived in Cairo from Aswan this morning.

The German minister held a series of important discussions today with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

Tomorrow, Spranger and the delegation accompanying him will inspect a number of economic development projects in Cairo which Germany is helping to finance and implement as part of the German economic and financial aid program to Egypt.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives With Delegation

NC1609211791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alia Abu-Mazin, arrived here this evening leading a Palestinian delegation on a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, 'Abbas will hold talks with a number of Egyptian officials as part of the Egyptian-Palestinian coordination regarding the Middle East peace conference and prior to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Egypt, which will begin tomorrow.

Reviews Peace Plan With Musa

NC1709101891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—This morning Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received a Palestinian delegation headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, a member of the PLO Executive Committee who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Their discussions dealt with the latest developments in regional peace efforts and the peace conference.

The meeting comes just hours before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Cairo today for talks with President Husni Mubarak and 'Amr Musa. Baker's talks will focus on the preparations for a peace conference and differences over Palestinian representation. This is Baker's seventh tour of the region.

Paper Praises Bush, Surveys Peace Process

NC1609061291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "Coordinating Arab Positions Before the Conference," AL-AKHBAR notes that U.S. President George Bush has reiterated his brave position in the face of pressure by Israel's supporters inside and outside Congress. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also has made threats intended to pressure the U.S. Administration into granting his country the requested loan guarantees. Despite these threats, President Bush has proven that he is sincerely determined to finish his presidency with a massive achievement to his credit that no other U.S. President has been able to claim since Israel was implanted in the heart of the Arab World. He is determined to remove all the factors contributing to the conflict that has so far blocked the establishment of true and lasting peace in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR says that the conference, if held, will only be the first in a series of formalities, after which the Likud leader, at any moment, may create new obstacles along the course of talks. The paper says that the Arab side should be ready for the talks that may actually get started. The Arabs should unify their positions, coordinate their policies, and prepare for any development that may arise during the possibly protracted course of the negotiations.

'Comprehensive' Cabinet Reshuffle Expected

NC1409093391 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle will occur in October to bring the number of ministers down to 15 and to appoint four deputy prime ministers.

According to a study conducted by the National Democratic Party's political leadership, the new cabinet is expected to include 15 ministers in charge of the basic ministries and four ministers of state. The ministries will be divided into ministerial groups which will each be chaired by a deputy prime minister.

The new cabinet structure is expected to include ministry groupings related to service, production, the economy, and development.

The reshuffle will represent a practical step toward enforcing the laws of supply and demand and showing commitment to the rules governing the market in a reformed economy.

According to reports circulating in high places, over 75 percent of the new cabinet will consist of new faces, while the ministers in charge of the major ministries are expected to remain in their present posts.

Authorities Prevent Jordanians From Entering

NC1409063291 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by Huda Mikkawi]

[Text] Following the release of the Jordanian White Paper, the Egyptian authorities began implementing a decision which punishes Jordanians and denies them entry to Egypt. A total of 200 Jordanians have been denied entry and have been sent back on the same planes that brought them to the country. The state security investigations bureau interrogated the passengers and confiscated their personal effects.

On 5 September, 30 passengers were denied entry; on 6 September, 40 were denied entry; on 7 September, 40 were denied entry; and on 8 September, 30 more passengers were denied entry. The measure has forced the Jordanian airline to reduce the number of passenger it carries.

Morocco

European Parliament's Resolution Denounced

LD1409155391 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1100 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Strasbourg 14 Sep (MAP)—At a public session held in Strasbourg from 9 to 13 September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on "the peace plan for Western Sahara."

The European Parliament, which includes 518 members, adopted the resolution by 166 votes as a result of ardent zeal by an active minority inside the majority.

Such a hasty vote has removed all credibility from the European Parliament, which is considered the strongest democratic gathering in the world.

A number of observers in Strasbourg think that by adopting such a resolution the European Parliament is exercising naked and brazen blackmail on Morocco and interfering in an unacceptable manner in the UN peace plan.

This is clear from Clause 9 of the resolution, which asserts that the European Parliament "in view of its preferential political and economic relations with Morocco, demands that the EC and its member countries be vigilant and use their influence in order to see that the peace plan is respected."

The European parliamentarians, the socialists, the ecologists, and members of the left coalition, expressed shamelessly during the public debate that preceded the vote that the European Parliament should freeze the fourth financial protocol signed between Morocco and the EC.

The ninth article of the resolution considers that "it is urgent in view of the real dangers surrounding the peace process that international observers from parliaments and non-governmental bodies be allowed to follow up the peace process on site in Western Sahara from now until the announcement of the results of the referendum. It is resolved to send a delegation to observe the operation of the referendum. The European Parliament calls on the parliaments of its member countries to do the same."

Frankly speaking, the respected European deputies do not trust the UN mission for the referendum in Western Sahara and, by way of consequence, do not trust the United Nations; therefore, they have decided to send a delegation emanating from the anti-Moroccan lobby to confirm that the work of the United Nations is proceeding in conformity with their views, that is, in conformity with the views of the Polisario mercenaries.

Observers think that this resolution, which has no logical basis, exposes its authors and reveals the fragility and lack of credibility of the European Parliament vis-a-vis the Saharan issue. It is stressed once again that such a resolution can only increase the absurdity and demagogy of the views of some European Parliament members who are still longing to return to to the era of the hammer and the scythe.

It is truly regrettable that one should see the intentions of parliamentarians, who are supposed to be well-informed and open about the world, sinking to such low levels and contenting themselves with praising the chimera of the international communist movement, believing that doubling the number of resolutions and explaining all phenomena from the viewpoint of the struggle of the classes is capable of solving all the problems, which makes them isolated in a world of legends.

Observers believe that it is not acceptable for the European Parliament to deal in such a mild manner, which does not lack collusion with the so-called Saharan republic, and turn a blind eye to the savage repression undergone by thousands of innocent Moroccans of Saharan origin detained in the camps of shame in Hammada.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Declares Commitment to Cease-Fire

LD0709115291 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT
7 Sep 91

[Text] Liberated territories, 7 Sep (APS)—The Polisario secretary general and SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] president, Muhammad Abdelaziz, has declared the complete, absolute, and unreserved commitment of the Polisario Front and the SDAR to the cease-fire and to the UN peace plan.

Mr. Abdelaziz spoke during a news conference held yesterday afternoon at the reception center "Hafed

Boudjemaa" hours after the official cease-fire [began], in accordance of the official cease-fire time. By yesterday afternoon nothing that breached the cease-fire on the confrontation line between the Sahrawi and the Moroccan armies had been recorded.

He noted that since yesterday the Sahrawi forces are present in the area that has been alloted to them, and they are awaiting the arrival of the UN observers.

He added that the Sahrawis are awaiting the arrival of the UN referendum coordination bureau in the SDAR.

After the Saharan Republic president expressed his hopes that the UN peace plan will be respected and the referendum in the Western Sahara be held 20 weeks after the cease-fire to enable the Saharan people to freely express themselves itself about independence, he thanked all countries, parties, organizations, and personalities from various countries that contributed to supporting the right of the Saharan people and helped them in their long plight.

He also appealed to the countries of the world to stand on the side of the Saharan people so that Resolution 690 be implemented as soon as possible—transparently, clearly, and justly. He addressed the journalists present during the news conference to say: We are addressing you and through you we are addressing the whole world to convey the commitment of the Saharan people to this plan and its spirit.

In reply to a question about the fact that Morocco officially accepted 6 September as the cease-fire date: secondly that he did not hear of any Moroccan stand that cancels or rejects the cease-fire, thirdly we did not notice any Moroccan movement out of the defense lines. [sentence as received]

Concerning the recent Moroccan moves, Mr. Abdelaziz confirmed that there is information confirming that the Moroccan forces had received instructions on 3 September to be ready to move within 48 hours.

Concerning possible obstacles to the peace plan, Mr. Abdelaziz said that the peace plan from the viewpoint of the Sahrawis is complete and indivisible, and the cease-fire is a basic operation in the implementation of the plan. We have complete confidence in the UN secretary general, the UN Security Council, and the UN mission. It is expected that a delegation of newsmen will be visiting POW's in an area in the liberated territories and attending the opening of the eighth festival of the youth of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro, which is to be at the el-Ayoune camp.

Polisario 'Threatening' To Ask for UN Membership

LD0309193191 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 3 sep 91

[Text] Only three days to go before the cease-fire enters into force in the Western Sahara and it is the time chosen by the Polisario to issue a warning. It chose the premises of the Nonaligned Movement ministerial conference in Accra to do so; more details now from Kamel Djaider:

[Djaider] The Polisario Front threatens to ask for admission to the United Nations for the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic,the SADR, if Morocco blocks the United Nations peace plan. The threat was voiced by Saharawi Foreign Minister Mr. Ould Salek in Accra yesterday at the nonaligned ministerial conference, which the Polisario Front is taking part in as a guest of Ghana. The head of Saharawi diplomacy made it clear that the Polisario Front never intended to ask for admission to the United Nations for the SADR so as not to disrupt efforts underway, or anticipate on the results of the referendum, which focuses on the question of whether the territory should be independent or integrated with Morocco.

The official for the pro-independent movement insists that his organization has been observing a truce for a year, and he also recalled recent Moroccan attacks on several localities of the former Spanish colony.

The UN plan, accepted by both conflicting parties, provides for a cease-fire to start on 6 September. It must be said that the latest developments in the area are not very encouraging. It seems that the main stumbling block on the eve of implementing the UN plan is the question of the identification of the people who will take part in the referendum—as you see it is one of the main questions. According to the Polisario, Morocco presented a list numbering 120,000 people, while the UN peace plan takes only into account the 74,000 people registered by Spanish officials in 1974.

Bahrain

Baltic States' Independence Recognized

JN1509142291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Bahrain today officially recognized Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia as independent and sovereign states. A decision to this effect was made during a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Official Cited on 'Premeditated' Iraqi Attack

PM1609162191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Sep 91 p 1

[Madi al-Khamis report: "Seventy Iraqi Gunmen Occupy Al-Abraq Post"; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Kuwait—Al-Jahrah Governor Shaykh Ibrahim al-Du'ayj announced yesterday that 70 Iraqis occupied the police post in al-Abraq area north of al-Jahrah and that the Kuwaiti Army engaged the aggressors and forced them to withdraw, leaving behind one seriously wounded individual. In a statement over the telephone, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Du'ayj said that the aggressors, who wore civilian clothes, began their aggression against the area in the evening of the previous day. The Kuwaiti Army sent out reconnaissance units and reinforcements and managed to check the advance of the Iraqis on that border area, "but when the Kuwaiti reinforcements were withdrawn, the aggressors renewed their attack on the police post and occupied it at 0900 hours yesterday morning, Sunday. Our forces engaged them. In the exchange of fire, which was started by the Iraqis, one of them was seriously wounded and the Kuwaiti Army was in full control of situation.

The al-Jahrah governor added: "The course of the operation confirms that it was perpetuated by the Iraqi regime, which sent its military in civilian clothes to cause disturbances, posing as civilians engaged in smuggling, and using as a pretext some technical problems such as the lack of clear border markings. He added: "The Iraqis carried out these premeditated aggressions with the aim of paralyzing the efforts of Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is now on his way to Baghdad, on the POW issue." Al-Du'ayj described the operation as being a "repetition of the Bubiyan operation carried out by the Iraqis after UN Secretary General de Cuellar's visit." He pointed out that "by carrying out such operations, the Iraqi regime wants to raise the falling morale of its defeated army."

He emphasized that the stability march in Kuwait continues and is now too big to be affected by such failed attempts or casual incidents. The al-Jahrah governor stressed that Kuwait should be alert and ready for anything from the criminal, Saddam Husayn.

Reportage on Continuation of Primakov Visit

Meets With Prime Minister

LD1609173291 London KUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 16 Sep (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received in his office at Bayan Palace at 1700 Yevgeniy Primakov, special envoy of President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of Primakov's visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Views Iraq With Foreign Minister

LD1609210691 London KUNA in Arabic 1906 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Sep (KUNA)—Soviet presidential envoy Yevgeniy Primakov today met with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister told KUNA that the Soviet envoy confirmed during the meeting the unchanging stand of his country in completely supporting the UN Security Council resolutions issued in support of Kuwait's just issues. Primakov specifically referred to the resolutions on Kuwaiti prisoners who are being held by the Iraqi regime and the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, as well as the reparations that have been approved by the UN Security Council in favor of Kuwait after the tyrant Iraqi invasion.

Shaykh Salim added that Primakov stressed to him that his country will support the efforts aimed at finding solutions to all the Kuwaiti just demands in this respect by stepping up efforts at international forums and meetings.

Shaykh Salim said that during the meeting he reviewed bilateral relations with the Soviet envoy and how to strengthen them, particularly in the economic field.

Concerning the efforts to reach a settlement of the Middle East question, Shaykh Salim said that Primakov affirmed to him that the Soviet Union supports efforts for participation of all the sides concerned in an international peace conference to produce a just and honorable result that satisfies all sides.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sulayman Sayyid 'Ali al- Rifa'i, adviser to the Amir's office; 'Abdallah Sa'ud al-'Abd al- Razzaq, director of the office of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the delegation accompanying the Soviet envoy.

Independent Baltic States Recognized

LD1509101191 London KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait today announced its recognition of the independence of the three Baltic states, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. The Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs decided at today's meeting to recognize the three republics in affirmation of Kuwait's principled stance to respect the people's right to self determination.

He added, in a press statement, today that Kuwait welcomes the three republics to the international community, hopes for continuous progress, prosperity, and stability for their peoples, and looks forward to establishing positive cooperation with them in the benefit of mutual interest and the bolstering of international peace and security.

Saudi Arabia

Government Recognizes Independent Baltic States

LD1609191991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 16 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a session of the Council of Ministers this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Follwoing the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, in a statement to SPA, said that the council was informed about the reports regarding the current events in the Arab and international arenas, and that the King listened to a comprehensive analysis of the events. Within this framework, the King informed the council of the contents of the message of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, which he received when he received the Soviet envoy, Yevgeniy Primakov. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir went on to say that following the decision of the USSR State Council regarding the independence of the three Baltic republics—Lithuania, Estonia, and Lativia—the Council of Ministers ecided to officially recognize the independence of those three states, welcoming their inclusion in the family of nations and expressing its wishes for more stability and prosperity for their peoples. [passage omitted]

Comment on 'Open Lies' in Jordanian Papers

LD1309165791 Riyadh SPA in English 1243 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 13, SPA—Some hired newspapers such as Jordanian newspapers AL-RA'Y and AKHBAR AL-USBU are still continuing to fabricate and create baseless news and events in a cheap manner to foment divisions among member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said an official source last night.

The source described as 'completely false and a forged one,' allegations made by AKHBAR AL-USBU few days ago that a conflict had taken place between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Again, he said the same paper yesterday slipped with another news about Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The source said AL-RA'Y, which is continuing publication of open lies, yesterday published that Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are currently moving towards signing of a joint defence accord and security protection etc, noting that Syria took a timely initiative by denying this news item.

'This newspaper is known from past experiences to spread intrigues and disturbances and create lies,' the source said.

'While all of us know, who have been directing and financing these campaigns, we ask does morals of press parasites has gone done to this low level to mislead the Arab public opinion,' the source added. [sentence as received]

Yemen

Independence of Baltic Republics Recognized

JN1209133391 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage omitted]

The Council endorsed the Republic of Yemen's recognition of the Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The council also decided to establish full diplomatic relations with these three republics. [passage omitted]

'Compromise Proposal' on Helicopter Overflights

JN1709053891 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Iraq has said it will permit UN inspectors searching for weapons of mass destruction to fly their own helicopters over its airspace provided an Iraqi official is on board. Iraq's UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari told reporters after he saw Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France that Baghdad had provided the framework for operation of the helicopters.

The helicopter controversy has halted work of UN teams searching for ballistic missiles in Iraq and prompted the Security Council to warn Baghdad of serious and specified consequences if did not comply. It was not clear, however, if Iraq's compromise proposal, which included other restrictions, would be acceptable to the Council. Iraq previously said that the helicopters could not fly over its territory, and, instead, offered its own helicopters and Iraqi pilots.

'Responsible Source' Refutes Kuwaiti Attack Claim

JN1609194191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Iraq today refuted the campaign of falsehoods launched by the small Al Sabah agents who claimed that the Kuwaiti Army has repelled an Iraqi attack against a Kuwaiti police post in al-Jahra' Governorate to the west of Kuwait City. They also claimed that 70 Iraqis in civilian clothing carried out the attack and were forced by the Kuwaiti Army to retreat, leaving behind one critically injured person.

In reaction to that, a responsible source at the Ministry of Culture and Information told INA that we should expect such lies from those dwarf agents because these are part of their ceaseless conspiracy against Iraq. They also aim to encourage their U.S. and Zionist masters to maintain the blockade against Iraq, the source said.

The source added: What had happened was the opposite to what the servants of the Americans have announced. At 1900 yesterday, four Kuwaiti civilian vehicles, carrying a number of military personnel, infiltrated into Iraqi territory at the Jabal Sinam area, encircled an Iraqi civilian truck near an Iraqi police post and then took it to Kuwait. The Iraqi authorities are currently discussing the issue with the UN observer group in the area.

UN Asked To Investigate Living Soldiers Burial

JN1609185891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Iraq officially asked the UN secretary general to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the ugly U.S. crime perpetrated by U.S. forces when they buried thousands of Iraqi soldiers alive under tons of sand. This came in a letter from Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

An INA correspondent in New York said that Iraq stressed in the letter that the U.S. crime is a rude and brutal violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, especially articles 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the First Convention. Iraq explained that silence over such horrible crimes, perpetrated by the United States in the name of the United Nations, is no longer acceptable, even inside the United States itself. Iraq also stressed that the disclosed crime of burying thousands of Iraqi soldiers alive is only one example of the crimes perpetrated by U.S. forces—crimes of which humanity feels extremely ashamed.

In the letter, Iraq emphasized that the United Nations should take the appropriate fact-finding measures and inform Iraq of the UN secretary general's reply to this official request.

It should be mentioned that the U.S. White House admitted Friday that U.S. President Bush was aware of the crime of his forces—the burial of thousands of Iraqi wounded and other soldiers alive in their defensive trenches inside Iraqi territory.

U.S. 'Unprecedented Crime' Condemned

JN1609190091 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 16, INA—Iraqi National Assembly has condemned sternly the crime perpetrated by the American troops and their allies of burying alive large numbers of Iraqi soldiers during the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq.

A National Assembly statement issued today said confession of the American administration and its Pentagon of their ugly crime represented a dangerous aggressive phenomenon considered one of the most unsightly crimes of war and most brutal. It has said it is unprecedented in the history of wars and constitutes an inhumane act contradicting the known military values during wars.

The statement went on that the Iraqi martyrs in the Mother of Battles would remain a torch illuminating the road of freedom and dignity and urge the Iraqi people to adhere to the national and humanitarian principles and to be insistent on patience and steadfastness. It has also appealed to the Arab people and world peace and freedom-loving peoples to act towards exposing this crime and express rejection of this inhumane practice performed by America against the Iraqis.

Presidential Office Advisers Appointed

JN1609170191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] today passed a decision appointing Latif Nusayyif Jasim and Hasan 'Ali Nassar Presidential Office advisers.

The RCC decision stated:

Latif Nusayyif Jasim is appointed adviser to the Presidential Office with the pay and bonuses of a minister. Hasan 'Ali Nassar is appointed adviser to the Presidential Office with the pay and bonuses of a minister.

Newspapers Hail Saddam's 'Unique' Leadership

JN1509090491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—Today's Iraqi newspapers are unanimous that the reelection of President Saddam Husayn as Regional Command secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party reflects the party and Iraq's masses' confidence in his intellectual and revolutionary capabilities, his leadership qualities, and in his unique skill in running the country's affairs and the political organization.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that the convening of the Congress of Jihad and Construction signals the importance of the historic leadership of comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, who enriched principles with ideas and practices and who was faithful to his people, party, and nation. Therefore, principles, the people, and the party love him and trust him.

The paper stressed that this trust will symbolize the new leadership and its struggle; signal national struggle to safeguard gains; defend the homeland; and reinforce the march of strength, steadfastness, and victory.

AL-THAWRAH referred to the facts and meaning of the convening of the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. It said that the event represents a Ba'thist trend expressing the nature of the party's revolutionary thought and struggle against the ongoing aggression and its repercussions.

The paper stressed that the first of these facts is adherence to genuine revolutionary and democratic traditions, which pressing, extraordinary circumstances strengthened rather than weakened. The traditions were strengthened in terms of awareness, behavior, and the policy of struggle—the policy of jihad—in order to defend the homeland and principles, and in terms of construction to safeguard the march and achieve cultural progress.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Ministry of Defense, said that historic leaders are granted leadership capabilities and their peoples support them. They, in turn, lead their people toward good, achievements, victory, and strength, and realize strong cohesion between their leadership and the people's masses, thereby creating a close relationship based on love and adherence to the leader's opinion and defense under his leadership.

AL-QADISIYAH continued: President Saddam Husayn not only possesses leadership characteristics, but also revolutionary and particularly Ba'thist ones. President Saddam Husayn's unique leadership was not shaped by authority in Iraq, but was created before that date. However, the stage of authority ripened his leadership capabilities and opened horizons for it to prove itself through translating his rich thoughts into pan-Arab practice away from experimental and reformist trends.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH described the Arab Socialist Ba'th party's 10th regional congress as the most daring congress, saying that the Ba'thists proved through their cadres and elected leadership their courageous commitment at all levels of the party's echelons to full democracy.

The paper highlighted the atmosphere prevailing the congress and said that the mother of battles, with its fateful challenges and the resulting political, military, and economic positions and facts, has been a real testing field for the heroism of the strugglers, their courage, sharpness of mind, the use of latent capabilities, and faith in the people as a genuine inspiration for strugglers and builders in the revolution's society.

AL-JUMHURIYAH referred to the reelection of President Saddam Husayn as secretary of the regional command and stressed that this has embodied the trust in the symbol leader, who represents the aspirations of the people and nation to liberation and independence and to an honorable and sincere determination that the Iraqis would assume their great status among the peoples of the world.

AL-'IRAQ newspaper, in its editorial, reviewed leader Saddam Husayn's militant record and his revolutionary struggle. It said that leader Saddam Husayn embodied all the Iraqi masses' dreams, wishes, and aspirations for a free and honorable life and for liberating themselves from all chains of enslavement, colonialism, and hegemony.

The paper referred to the march of construction and civilization witnessed by Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. It said the construction process exceeded all the expectations and calculations of all the enemies and the greedy who raised pickaxes of destruction through flagrant conspiracies and aggression to push Iraq back into the years of darkness and oppression.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ said that by reelecting President Saddam Husayn, the 10th regional congress genuinely expresses the faith and allegiance of 18 million Iraqis to the leader who has led them from one victory to another and from one glory to another.

BABIL newspaper said the reelection of leader Saddam Husayn was a decision to keep Iraq lofty for ever. It is the choice of the martyrs of our people before being the choice of the party or those concerned in Iraq and the nation.

Continuing to explain the meaning of the leader's reelection, BABIL said that it is Iraq's decision to remain as it is; a great Iraq and not as the enemies want: Iraq's north, Iraq's center, and Iraq's south. It is the choice of the struggler sons of the nation so that the glorious Arab nation does not become divided into regions like the Maghreb, Egypt, Iraq, and the Arabian peninsula, and so that the Palestine question does not become a thing of the past.

'Some' Kurdish Parties' Behavior, Goals Assailed

JN1509101791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—The newspaper BABIL criticized some Iraqi Kurdish leaders for pursuing personal and selfish interests, being directed by foreign sides, betraying the national trust, and selling national wealth to neighboring countries.

In an article in the "Stations" column, the paper stresses that fluctuating and changing positions are a new characteristic of the behavior of these people. All Iraqis used to believe that the Kurds either love extremely or hate extremely.

The paper holds these people responsible for the tragedies of the northern region. It says that all the destruction that occurred in the economic establishments of our Kurdish people over the past tens of years was the result of certain people trading with the Kurdish cause to achieve certain goals.

BABIL raises a question posed by many people on whether Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani are ready to face up to their responsibility in dialogue with the government and to the historical importance of Iraq's territorial integrity and unity of its people, or whether they are trying to gain time from that dialogue to overcome the collapse that followed their clash with the Army and the ensuing destruction of sedition in northern Iraq, even before the international forces interfered.

The paper regrets the facts revealed by some Kurdish leaders' positions and behavior. It says that the recent incidents asserted that some of the Kurdish parties are still behaving in accordance with the second part of the question, namely; the failure to face up to their responsibility as well as their eagerness to gain time and fill their pockets with money at the expense of our Kurdish people.

The paper expresses confidence in other Kurdish parties' patriotism and their desire to reach positive results that will serve the unity of Iraq—territory and people. It says that there are other Kurdish leaders who know the importance of this issue and who seek solutions that will achieve stability and not solutions that come from the West and Europe and that ignore the Turkish air raids on targets in northern Iraq and the killing of many of our Kurdish people by the Turks.

BABIL also sheds light on the treacherous practices of some Kurdish parties against Iraq's interests and national establishments, which are serving the northern region and the Iraqi Kurds. It adds that those people have sold the equipment of the Yakhmah [name as received] dam, to which the government allocated billions of dollars, to Iran for only $6 million, and transported the equipment of that huge dam to the Iranian side.

The paper does not conceal its fear that those symbols may try to turn Kurdish youths into killers and thieves, through temptation and financial pressure, in order to accumulate easy and illegal wealth at the expense of the homeland and the people and then maintain the abnormal and unstable situation in northern Iraq to serve their personal interests.

Kurdish Official Views 'Snags' in Autonomy Talks

NC1409174391 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By Ceyhun Erguven]

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq, Sept 14 (AFP)—Months of talks over autonomy for the Kurds have hit snags over the status of oil-rich Karkuk and the issue of democratic reform, a senior Kurdistan Front official said.

Fu'ad Massum, a member of the eight-party front's political bureau, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Friday that his group expected an answer to its demands from Baghdad next week.

But he warned that the Kurdistan Front was prepared to fight if necessary.

"We would prefer a peaceful solution guaranteeing autonomy but if Baghdad wants to resolve this issue with war ... we are ready," Massum said.

He said the Kurds and the Iraqi Government had failed despite four months of arduous negotiations to reach an agreement securing autonomy for the Kurdish communities in northern Iraq.

The Kurdistan Front, Massum said, is demanding that "84,000 square kilometers of Iraqi territory be included in an autonomous Kurdistan but the regime of President Saddam Husayn is refusing to yield on 40 percent of this area, saying these territories are Arab."

"The Baghdad Government says that the majority of the population in Karkuk is Arab. The fact is they are considering that the Turkmen who live there are Arab," he said.

"Karkuk is Kurdish," Massum added, reaffirming his community's traditional attachment to the city despite claims by Turkmen (Turkish-speaking Iraqis) who contend that it is Turkoman-dominated.

A close aide to the head of the influential Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Jalal Talabani, Massum said that another Kurdish chief could next week obtain an answer from Baghdad on their stand.

"This would allow us to understand Baghdad's intentions," said Massum.

Mas'ud Barzani, of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has been leading the negotiations with the Iraqi authorities along with Talabani.

Barzani favours an immediate accord with the Iraqi authorities—a position also held by Baghdad—while

Talabani has set down many conditions, namely the demand that Karkuk belong to an autonomous Kurdistan, Kurdish sources said.

Massum said that the Kurdistan Front could accept a two-to-three year interim period "during which we would agree to an autonomy which does not include Karkuk, as long as we could set up a joint administration with Kurds, Arabs, and Turkmen.

"But at the end of this interim period we would like to resume negotiations on Karkuk," he said.

He also criticised proposals by Baghdad for democratic reforms in the country, which would provide for multiparty politics and a new constitution.

"We demand free elections, freedom of the press and the respect of human rights in Iraq. But Saddam's conception of democracy is limited to a few Kurdistan Front deputies in parliament," Massum said.

"Saddam's idea of multiparty politics calls for the recognition of the (ruling) Ba'th Party by political parties that will be created in the future," he added.

Negotiations for Kurdish autonomy opened in April, one month after the failed bid by the Kurdish community to topple Saddam Husayn's government which was defeated in the Gulf war.

The Kurdistan Front wants to obtain a new status of autonomy to replace an agreement in principle that had been worked out with the Iraqi authorities in 1974.

Barzani Says Agreement Only 'Matter of Time'

JN1509143591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, affirmed that the dialogue between the central leadership and the Kurdistan Front made very great progress on the path toward an agreement, and that the announcement of an agreement is only a matter of time. In a statement to INA, he added: Today, we live in a sea of conspiracies. We will confront these conspiracies with great firmness and determination; we will also stand up to everyone who would place obstacles to block the agreement.

Regarding his meeting today with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and Defense Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan in the al-Ta'mim Governorate, in the presence of al-Ta'mim Governor Hashim Hasan al-Majid, Mas'ud Barzani said: We all realize the size of the serious conspiracy against Iraq and its unified and brotherly people. This conspiracy is aimed against the agreement and the establishment of autonomy in Kurdistan. Our talks today with RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the defense minister aim at coordinating efforts and discussing all related issues.

Mas'ud Barzani added that the only path before us is dialogue and agreement. There is no alternative to peace, the Iraqi land, and national unity; and there is no alternative at all to Arab-Kurdish fraternity.

Responding to a question from an INA correspondent concerning the return of Kurdish families to Karkuk, Mr. Mas'ud Barzani said: We sent an envoy to the brother interior minister and the governor of al-Ta'mim to work out the details of their repatriation. All the required arrangements are now in place and these families have begun returning to Karkuk, and all of them should be back in the next few days.

He added that there are no reasons why they should not return, and the repatriation of the Kurdish families should be handled by us rather than the United Nations.

Regarding some recent incidents that took place in certain Kurdish areas, Mas'ud Barzani said these have been contained, even though he anticipates a few localized problems here and there. They are part of the conspiracy against us that will fail to prevent an agreement. We will take a firm stand against all obstacles and impediments.

Barzani concluded by saying: I would like to reassure our Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and minorities—that there is absolutely no going back on the option of dialogue and understanding and the establishment of peace and autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan. Neither will there be any backtracking on consolidating Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, no matter what the degree of conspiracy. We have the determination and resolve to sort out our problems peacefully and in the spirit of one team, and brotherly understanding in the interests of our people from the northernmost to the southernmost tip of the country.

Barzani Meets 'Izzat Ibrahim, Defense Minister

JN1509170491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1627 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] We have just received the following: A meeting was held in the city of Karkuk today, 15 September 1991, between comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani on the one hand, and 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, minister of defense, on the other.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed several important issues. The two sides stressed the need to continue talks to achieve a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue.

Radio Carries Talabani Interview With BBC

NC1309054191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Qasim Ja'far on 11 September; place not given—recorded; first part is introduction]

[Text] Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani sent a letter to British Prime Minister John Major urging him to adopt a stand in response to what Talabani termed as the [word indistinct] attacks the Iraqi Army is launching against the Kurds.

Talabani said the Kurds fear that the Iraqi Government is preparing to resume attacks on the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

UN special envoy Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan tated that fighting took place around the city of Karkuk and urged the two sides last Monday to exercise self-restraint.

Qasim Ja'far contacted Talal Talabani at his headquarters in northern Iraq by telephone and asked him what, in his opinion, are the objectives behind the renewal of the clashes. Talabani said:

[Talabani] In my view, the Iraqi Government has two objectives behind the clashes that took place: The first is to increase the number of Kurdish refugees returning to the Karkuk area. The United Nations is calling for (?their return) and [words indistinct] the Iraqi Government refuses to comply with these demands. (?The second) is to know what the allied forces' reaction will be to the (?use) of Iraqi helicopters in attacking the Kurdish areas.

[Ja'far] We of course know that talks were being held between you and the Iraqi Government. What happened to these talks?

[Talabani] In fact, the Kurdish side is still insisting on continuing the negotiations. The Kurdish (?Front) prefers a political and peaceful solution to renewal of fighting or fighting among brothers. But the governmental side's obstinacy toward the democratic demands and [words indistinct] and the relationship with the Kurdish, Arab, and international parties abroad. Also the governmental side's persistence in pursuing the policy of Arabizing the Karkuk area and the government's obstinacy toward the autonomous area continue. This obstinacy has caused the negotiations to stumble and to [words indistinct]. But the negotiations are continuing through an exchange of letters between the Kurdish side and the government.

[Ja'far] How can we ascertain that, within the Kurdish Front, you and Barzani have a common view on the negotiations and the future relations between the Kurds and Baghdad?

[Talabani] What I can confirm is that there is complete agreement between us on the basic issues and even on how to (?deal with) the incidents that recently took place in Kurdistan. [Words indistinct] authorizing Brother Mas'ud Barzani to undertake a solution on behalf of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Therefore, I believe the resolutions that were unanimously adopted by the Kurdish Front leadership concerning the definition of the minimum demands of the Kurdish people and on how to [words indistinct] with the government, and then putting the draft agreements to a Kurdish people's referendum [words indistinct]. All these things constitute the common ground for [words indistinct] As for differences, I believe interpretations could differ even within the one party or within the party leadership, let alone the leaderships of three Kurdish parties, which have common programs and political philosophies. Such differences in interpretation are natural and are expected to happen in every front [words indistinct].

[Ja'far] How do you now assess the Kurds' relations with the other regional states, namely Turkey, Iran, and Syria?

[Talabani) There are normal and good traditional relations between the Kurdish movement and Syria and Iran. The relations with Turkey have developed positively this year. I believe the Kurdish movement in Iraq will be eager to maintain these relations and to profit from them for the benefit of Iraq in general and the Kurdish people in particular.

Reportage on Clashes Between Kurds, Regime Troops

150,000 Troops Amassed in Karkuk

NC1409135991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has told the AL-HAYAH newspaper that the defeated tyrant's regime recently amassed an estimated 150,000 troops, supported by 700 tanks, dozens of heavy-caliber artillery pieces, rockets, and large quantities of chemical weapons, in Karkuk.

Talabani also charged that the tyrant's troops used helicopters to shell the village of Kuzek and ried to seize mountainous areas in the Darbandikhan region. He explained that the Kurdish Front's talks with the dictator's regime faltered over the regime's determination to alter Karkuk's demographic nature by force and its violation of an earlier agreement reached with the Front. Talabani denied any knowledge of the so-called joint draft charter published in Amman, adding that Saddam Husayn's regime wants to embarrass the Kurdish side and harm the Kurds' relations with neighboring countries as well as allies.

Executions, Attacks Reported

NC1409150791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] As the heroic revolutionaries continue their campaign to liquidate the criminal regime's henchmen, one of their groups executed criminal Ibrahim Humaydan, a Ba'thist official in the Tuz Khurmatu area in Karkuk Governorate, dispatching him to the lowest level of hell. Another group of our valiant popular forces imposed the death penalty on criminal Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil Tawfiq, an intelligence officer in the Army's 7th Division.

In another development, strugglers from our heroic popular forces launched a successful attack on the headquarters of a company assigned to protect the al-Naziriyah bridge. The lieutenant commanding the company and several soldiers were killed and weapons and ammunition were seized. The heroic group returned safely to base, with God's care.

'Several Hundred' Troops Captured

NC1609075591 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 16 (AFP)—Several hundred Iraqi soldiers were captured by Kurdish fighters during clashes earlier this in [as received] Iraqi Kurdistan, a U.N. official said here Monday.

The official said he saw several hundred Iraqi soldiers, still wearing their uniforms, locked up in a mosque in the town of Raniyah, 400 kilometers (248 miles) north of Baghdad.

The official said the Kurdish combatants claimed to have captured 796 Iraqi soldiers in the fighting north of the oil center of Karkuk, but he could not confirm that figure allegation during his visit last week to the area.

The prisoners were expected to be handed back to the Iraqi authorities on Sunday, the official said, without being able to confirm if the handover had taken place.

He also showed reporters in Baghdad photographs of some of the prisoners, including wounded admitted to a Raniyah hospital, and said he had personally spoken with a number of captured Iraqi officers.

Iraqi authorities have played down the importance of the fighting which raged around the oil-producing town of Karkuk and have not reported any captured soldiers.

Helicopters, Heavy Artillery Used

NC1609135091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Kurdish sources asserted that the defeated tyrant's regime used helicopters and heavy artillery during its recent attack against Kurds in Karkuk and Khanaqin. The 842d and 848th Brigades were involved in that attack. The sources add that 10 people were killed and 12 others wounded in (Kuya).

The sources said the inhabitants confronted the attack and that many soldiers disobeyed their command and joined the Kurdish fighters. The sources asserted that 680 Saddamist soldiers, including 24 officers, were taken prisoner.

Iraqi Artillery Shelling Reported

NC1609151991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1425 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] As part of a plan to annihilate our steadfast people who have taken refuge in the marshlands, 122-mm, 130-mm, and 155-mm artillery units shelled the areas of al-Salam, al-'Adl, al-Majarr, and nearby villages in the past few days. The criminal shelling resulted in the martyrdom of a number of inhabitants and the burning of houses and property.

The criminal Saddamist forces have taken up positions on the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah highway, in the section facing the marshlands. They opened artillery fire at the area west of the highway.

Tension Between Kurds, Regime 'Remains High'

NC1609184991 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 16 (AFP)—United Nations authorities are unable to escort Kurdish refugees back to their homes in northern Iraq where tension between government troops and Kurdish rebel forces remains high, a senior U.N. official disclosed Monday.

Bernt Bernander, coordinator of U.N. activities in Iraq, attributed the friction to a lack of progress in negotiations between Iraqi Government officials and Kurdish leaders on a new status for Kurdistan.

"The situation remains quite tense in the north because of the perceived lack of progress in the political negotiations, accompanied by movements of the military," he said.

He was speaking a week after Iraqi-Kurdish clashes around the oil-producing city of Karkuk.

The tension is preventing the United Nations from ensuring the return of Kurdish refugees to their homes, notably 120,000 to 130,000 residents of Karkuk who are currently living in government-controlled areas.

"The Kurds are making a U.N. presence in Karkuk a condition for their return," Bernander explained, adding that the Iraqi Government has not authorized the establishment of a U.N. office in the city.

The status of the city, which the Kurds want to include in any future autonomous Kurdistan, is a question currently being debated by Kurdish and Iraqi negotiators.

"Political difficulties in the agreement on Kirkuk have a direct impact on the return of people to the city," according to Bernander.

He warned that the situation in the area could become "critical with the onset of cold weather and the rains."

A United Nations official who asked not to be named meanwhile reported that Kurdish gurrillas, known as Peshmergas, captured several hundred Iraqi soldiers last week in confrontations that left dozens dead and injured.

He said he had seen the prisoners at Raniyah, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of here, adding that they were supposed to have been handed over to Iraqi authorities on Sunday.

But he was unable to say if the handover had taken place.

Leaders on Talks With Secretary of State Baker

Shamir—'Good and Friendly' Talks

TA1709090591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0825 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Joint news conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker outside the Prime Minister's Office—live, in English; passages omitted are Secretary Baker's remarks]

[Excerpts] [Shamir] Ladies and gentlemen, we had good and friendly discussions with the secretary of state, Mr. Baker, yesterday and today. We have discussed in these discussions many issues related to the peace process and our bilateral relations. I think we can say that we have achieved a certain progress in various matters related to the peace process. We have to have further discussions about many issues, and I think that in our discussions in the future, there will be maintained the same spirit of friendly cooperation.

The secretary is now leaving our country, I hope with the feeling that very important work was done, and we have before us good perspectives for the future. Thank you. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the issue of the loan guarantees, or is that among the things that remain unresolved at this time?

[Shamir] Well, we have discussed this issue.

[Correspondent] Wait a minute; what about an answer? Let's have an answer.

[Shamir, laughing] We have not yet resolved but we have discussed it, and we will continue these discussions in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Shamir Aide's Statement

TA1609170191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1648 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Statement by Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's media adviser, after Shamir's talks with Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state have just ended three hours and 15 minutes of talks, which were conducted in a friendly atmosphere. Part of the discussion was one-to-one and lasted about an hour and a half; afterward the foreign minister, the defense minister, and several advisers on each side joined the talks. Today's talks dwelt on the peace process, several bilateral issues, and also problems linked to the loan guarantees. Since the sides did not manage to conclude their discussions today, they will reconvene tomorrow morning at 0900 for an additional meeting. At this stage, no further details will be made available on the talks.

'Some Progress' Reported

TA1609203291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Some progress was achieved this evening on the formulation of Israel's conditions for participating in the peace conference during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The possibility of reaching a compromise on the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption was also discussed. This issue has still not been resolved. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports on the meeting:

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived this afternoon at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem exactly on schedule. I feel as though I was here only yesterday, Baker told his host, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as this is the seventh time in approximately four months he has arrived here as part of his attempts to bring Israel and its neighbors to a peace conference. In contrast with previous occasions, this trip takes place under the shadow of what is considered an unprecedented slump in relations between the two countries, in the wake of President Bush's refusal to grant Israel loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

Today's discussions began in a private meeting between Baker and Shamir and proceeded to include a wide forum of ministers and advisers. The initially tense atmosphere thawed during more than three hours of meetings. There was continued discussion on the formulation of the memorandum of understanding on Israel's conditions for participating in the peace conference. Afterward, the issue of the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption predictably cropped up, as did the resultant crisis. The peace process was discussed again later to sum up the meeting. Nothing was finalized, and the meetings will resume tomorrow morning at 0900 to try to make progress on the conditions for convening a peace conference, while at the same time perhaps devoting efforts to finding a more solid compromise that would permit Israel to get the loan guarantees, even if after some delay.

[Begin recording] [Foreign Minister David Levi] The talks were cordial and understanding was shown for Israel's positions, which will be stipulated in a document that will be consolidated tomorrow, and I am happy that the United States has stood firm in its promises on the positions that were expressed and summed up as understandings.

[Sukenik] Could one say that we have made some progress today on the way to the peace conference?

[Levi] One could certainly say that we have made some progress; however, I would say that a large part of the way has already been covered since we commenced our joint efforts, but this also depends on the Arabs and on other parties. What composition will the delegation have? Will the same principles stipulated by the understandings in the document also be respected by the other side?

[Sukenik] But the issue of the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption is no less important, and perhaps even more important today. Did you hear any kind of compromise proposal or offer from the secretary of state to meet Israel halfway?

[Levi] We began discussing this, at his initiative, of course. This matter should not be allowed to cast a shadow on relations between the two countries nor on our mutual desire to make progress and promote the peace process. I hope that we can make progress tomorrow. At any rate, I have appealed to him. He is able to make a contribution and I believe that he will give the matter some thought and make some consultations tonight, and if not tomorrow then the day after. The desire to find a fair and good solution that will maintain our good relations, however, is mutual and shared by both parties. [end recording]

The political echelon in Israel now expects that Baker will soon—and perhaps even tonight—consult with President Bush, and the two men will perhaps propose some sort of compromise solution that will resolve the crisis surrounding the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption—a compromise that will, of course, facilitate the holding of productive talks on the peace process.

The United States today took a step toward meeting Israel's demands, especially on matters related to limitations on the Palestinian delegation at the peace conference and on keeping the PLO out of the process as much as possible. Baker is making a certain effort to allay Israel's concerns and this evening once more promised that no secret promises had been given to the Arab side and that all agreements with Israel would be put in writing. The bottom line is that the peace conference will probably be postponed until after October, but the United States is still determined that it will be held. Israel is slightly less concerned tonight but many problems still remain.

Baker Commitments to Shamir Detailed

TA1709054491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Text] Both the American secretary of state and the Israeli officials expressed positive feelings after yesterday's talks. In over three hours of discussions, first only with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and later with Foreign Minister David Levi and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the two sides reviewed the points of a written commitment by the Americans in advance of the peace conference scheduled for next month.

The American document states that direct negotiations are still the best course toward reaching peace. The United States rules out the participation of the PLO and agrees that Israel will not be forced to sit down to talk to anyone it does not want to. The document also states that there will be no parallel deliberations at the UN Security Council, and that a peace conference would not take place without the prior okay of all sides. The current administration honors the letter in the mid-1970's sent by then President Gerald Ford, stating American understanding for Israel's security needs on the Golan Heights, and the Soviet Union will not be able to cosponsor the peace conference without first reestablishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 17 September carries a similar report, adding that "no votes will be taken at the conference, and after two days, direct two-track negotiations will begin."]

In about two hours, Secretary Baker will arrive at the prime minister's office for more talks. Left to be resolved is the controversy surrounding Israel's request for $10 billion in immigrant housing loan guarantees. It is unclear what either side will have to offer if a compromise is to be reached. American sources say that Secretary Baker does not—at least fully—support President Bush's all-out campaign on the issue and might be in a position to resolve the crisis.

Either way, Baker will be here until just about the last moment before Ben-Gurion Airport closes for Yom Kippur, when he flies to Jordan.

Levi News Conference on Talks

TA1709094591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0836 GMT 17 Sep 91

[News conference with Foreign Minister David Levi at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem following the talks with Secretary of State Baker—live]

[Text] [Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, how do you sum up the talks with Secretary of State Baker? First, with regard to the peace process, have matters been settled? Is there a letter of guarantees and are we going to the peace conference?

[Levi] First, the understandings between us are summed up in a written paper. There are additional matters which we will discuss and improve, as there is understanding on this and the talks are being conducted in a good atmosphere. We have submitted those points that we want to, I would say, improve further. Most of the positions that we expressed at the time and which have turned into understandings and agreements between us are acceptable to the United States. The atmosphere is good, and it is the desire of both sides to prevent a confrontation and to resume the open, sincere, and friendly dialogue with the United States.

[Golan] Friendly does not apply to the guarantees issue. Does the crisis around this issue stand as it did prior to Baker's arrival?

[Levi] First, you heard from the secretary of state about the U.S. Administration's determination and desire to help Israel absorb aliyah. As for the points that have been conveyed to us, we still have the desire to improve several things, because the argument is not over the delay—whether it is for three or four months—but rather over how to guarantee that the aid will indeed be given and that no linkage [last word in English] is created. We will continue to discuss this issue in the coming days, and the secretary is slated to speak with the President, too. I believe and hope, however, that in our talks today, with understanding and with an effort to use all the means of mutual persuasion to prevent a confrontation and a deterioration, we made a very important contribution to bilateral relations, toward the aid for the absorption of aliyah, and toward the promotion of peace.

[Golan] Is Baker returning after Yom Kippur? There was talk that very soon....

[Levi, interrupting] We did not conclude this. If he returns, we will continue our dialogue and consultations. We remain in contact; we have possibilities, channels of communication, and personal meetings.

[Israel Television political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Do you believe the conference can be convened in October?

[Levi] This does not depend on Israel alone; it depends on other elements, too. If all the arrangements we discussed are concluded, this will be possible. Israel does not seek to put it off, but rather to advance it. We are not being led. Again, on the matter of peace, Israel is leading.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, on the guarantees issue, can we understand from your remarks that we will put up with the four-month delay in return for some compensation, interim funding, in order to iron out the differences?

[Levi] We are not talking about interim funding. We are talking about an understanding regarding January, at the end of the four months, and we will work on this. At the beginning of the process, too, I requested that we be allowed to work. Today's atmosphere, talks, and manifest desire to maintain the same friendship, to maintain sincere relations, and to prevent a confrontation guide the two sides. This in itself is a step forward to extricate ourselves from the deterioration which we almost slipped into.

[Golan] On the peace process, could you tell us which are the moot points in the letter of guarantees that is being worked out?

[Levi] No, I am not talking about a dispute. I am talking about clarifying and improving matters concerning arrangements and prior understandings, about solidifying matters. This is not being put off; we agreed that we will continue the discussion. Most of the positions we expressed and the understandinds we reached with the United States are very well anchored in a written document. As for other issues, we will still improve them. The Americans have the desire to work with us on improving them.

[Israel Television Arabic Service correspondent Shlomo Ganor] Would you say that the tension in relations is over, Mr. Levi?

[Israel Television English Service correspondent Steve Edwards] Does Baker want to convene the conference in October?

[Levi] No, he himself does not know; he has not yet set a date. He still needs to coordinate things with additional elements, including the USSR. Therefore, the situation is not one of Israel saying, as a matter of principle, that the conference will not take place in October. We want to solve the problems on the agenda, to hermetically seal the understandings, to hear that the other side is prepared for talks rather than piling up obstacles. The moment these matters are concluded, with his agreement, the conference will convene.

[Edwards] Did Baker say he will return?

[Levi] No, no, this was not concluded.

[Golan] We thank you, Mr. Foreign Minister, and a happy new year.

[Levi] Happy new year to you and all the people of Israel.

Ambassador to U.S. on Talks

TA1709075691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Zalman Shoval, our ambassador to Washington, is currently in Israel. Good morning, sir.

[Shoval] Good morning.

[Zohar] We have heard that the atmosphere at the talks with the U.S. secretary is good. Has it lifted the cloud created by President Bush's statement?

[Shoval] The atmosphere was very positive, because the talks revolved mainly around the peace process. On this issue, considerable progress was made even before Mr. Baker's arrival in Israel—that is to say, in the course of the contacts in Washington and, naturally, in last month's contacts in Israel. We are trying to promote the peace process as if the issue of the guarantees did not exist and to promote the guarantees issue as if there were no peace process.

[Dan] Let us address the peace process first. Can you explain the precise nature of the progress that has been made?

[Shoval] I cannot explain precisely, of course, but as is known, there is a long series of issues on which Israel had received, let us say, oral promises in the course of the talks. We wanted all these to be put in writing, and now they have been. In addition, accords achieved between the United States and Israel in the past have now been reworded in this document.

[Zohar] Perhaps we could hear more about those negotiating points over which some progress has apparently been made.

First of all, we understand this U.S. letter of assurances to say that Israel will not be obliged to sit down at the conference with anyone who is unacceptable to it, which means that the PLO is out of the negotiations.

[Shoval] I will not go into detail on the points of the document, but the principle that Israel will sit down only with those with whom it wants to sit was acceptable from the outset. It is an unassailable principle, because Israel cannot be coerced into talking with an organization or body that does not acknowledge its existence or even its right to exist. This point was obvious from square one, and the Americans have accepted it.

[Zohar] What about the Israeli demand to be free to interpret Resolution 242?

[Shoval] That principle, too, was acceptable to the Americans since our first talk with Mr. Baker. They agreed that the various parties can have different interpretations of Resolution 242. Thus, we will come with our interpretation, and I assume the Arab countries and the various Arab bodies will come with their own interpretations. For us, the resolution is perfectly clear. We understand it to be based on several equipollent principles, and we intend to insist on principles congenial to us.

[Zohar] We have heard that after concluding his talks with the top Israeli echelons, Baker promised the Palestinians that the issue of Jerusalem will also be discussed. Do we have any information on this?

[Shoval] No, we have none. We do not know precisely what happened at the meeting between the Americans and the Palestinian group. It is quite possible the Palestinians will want to raise the issue of Jerusalem at some stage, but Israel's position is clear: Jerusalem is not up for debate; it is the capital of Israel.

[Dan] Mr. Shoval, you started by saying that the main reason yesterday's talks were good is that they dealt primarily with the peace process. Can we understand from this that there has been no progress on the guarantees issue?

[Shoval] So far, there has been no progress on the guarantees issue. I believe, though I cannot say this with certainty, that some circles in the U.S. Administration would like to reach some kind of a formula on this matter, and we do not intend to reject one.

[Dan] Has there been talk of a formula according to which Shamir will give in on the deferral issue—that is, agree to receive the guarantees after a 120-day postponement?

[Shoval] This is not the main issue; there has been a lot of misunderstanding around the whole matter. We never went to war over the 120 days because, after all, we are talking here about guarantees to be given over five years and a repayment to be made over decades. This is not the issue. The question is whether the entire debate will recommence at the end of the four-month deferral period, which can be a very inconvenient time from the viewpoint of the peace process we expect to be in at that time. Such a development is liable to send the wrong messages to the Arabs, namely, that Israel can be pressured. This can definitely be detrimental to the peace process.

[Dan] What is the situation on this matter? Are the Americans willing to promise the guarantees when the 120 days have elapsed?

[Shoval] At this stage, they are not.

[Dan] And is Shamir willing to wait out the 120 days?

[Shoval] I do not wish to speak on the prime minister's behalf, but I will reiterate that the 120-day issue has never been the main impediment.

[Dan] Zalman Shoval, where relations between the two countries and the two nations are concerned, have there been no acts in the course of this serious confrontation with the United States which are perhaps irrevocable? We have heard of a certain deterioration in U.S. public opinion; recent polls say the Americans see Israel as more responsible than others for the failure of the peace process, and so forth. Would you say some things that happened recently are almost irrevocable, even if the two countries' leaders manage to settle their differences?

[Shoval] Public opinion anywhere can be influenced, mainly on foreign policy matters. In the United States, public opinion is greatly swayed by what the top administration officials say. For instance, when we were being praised during the Gulf crisis, the public had a very favorable opinion of us. These things are very inconsistent, and I suggest we do not let them upset us.

[Zohar] How do we interpret the remarks President Bush made yesterday in Washington? Compared to Baker, who is perhaps presenting a more conciliatory approach in Israel, has the President remained unbending with regard to us?

[Shoval] I do not know. I would not like to start interpreting the President's remarks, which I heard on the radio just like you. I have also heard milder remarks, and I suggest we look on the bright side.

[Zohar] Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington—here in Jerusalem for the moment—thank you very much.

[Shoval] Thank you.

Earlier Report on Guarantees 'Crisis'

TA1609144591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1420 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's meeting with Secretary Baker is still going on, but we have initial information on the talks between Baker and Foreign Minister David Levi in the car driving from the airport to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The talk in the car was conducted in a good atmosphere, we were told. Foreign Minister Levi told Baker: We have gone so far, we have invested so much effort through joint cooperation, that there is no point in all that work going down the drain due to a nonpolitical issue. You and I must find a way to resolve the problem of the guarantees, Levi told Baker. The secretary of state replied: I believe so, too. I am interested in working with you to find a solution. The United States does not want confrontations. America wants to help immigrant absorption, and that desire will continue. Together, you and I will find a way to resolve the guarantees crisis, Baker promised Levi, and went on: On the political process, all the agreements we have reached I am prepared to give Israel in writing. To recall, Israel demanded a written document. Baker is now prepared to give it to Israel. It apparently refers to a letter of guarantees and not a memorandum of understanding, but it will certainly be welcomed in Jerusalem.

Baker also reported to Levi on his talks in the USSR. He told Levi that he agreed with the Soviets, as he had promised Israel, that the invitations to the peace conference will be sent only after coordination with Israel. It is clear to the Soviets, Baker said, that they have to set up full diplomatic relations with Israel as soon as possible, before a peace conference begins. Baker also raised in his talks in the USSR the problem of anti-Semitism there.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 16 September reports that "on his way to Jerusalem tomatoes were hurled at Baker's entourage. The incident occurred at the Giv'at Sha'ul Junction at the entrance to Jerusalem. The tomatoes hit one of the cars in the entourage."]

Palestinian Reaction to Meeting With Baker

Al-Husayni Comments Before Talks

TA1609160391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by territories correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation is due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker again in about two hours at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. This meeting, like the previous ones, will be held in West Jerusalem despite reports that it had been scheduled to take place in the eastern part of the city. Palestinian sources, however, asserted that the United States accepts the idea of holding meetings in East Jerusalem in principle.

Reacting to reports that the PLO had instructed the Palestinians in the territories to harden their positions, Faysal al-Husayni said that Israel was the inflexible party and that the Palestinians were continuing on the path toward peace and international legitimacy.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] We are waiting for answers from Mr. Baker, which we will be able to transmit to the Palestine National Council when we will be in an adequate position to respond and either say yes or give some other answer. [end recording]

Al-Husayni's statements imply that it will be clear whether the Palestinians will attend the peace conference only after the convention of the Palestine National Council in Algiers next month. When asked whether they would agree to any compromises, al-Husayni would only say that the Palestinians are eager to hold any peace conference without preconditions being made by any party.

It should be pointed out that since the beginning of the process, most of the questions presented by the Palestinians have remained unanswered, a fact that also increases the internal criticism in the territories against the meetings with Baker. Al-Husayni was speaking at a convention of left-wing Israelis and Palestinians who published a joint communique which presents an agreed-upon framework for a public peace process. The document was formulated at a seminar held in the United States, and PLO representative Nabil Sha'th said that the PLO found it acceptable as a basis for negotiations. [passage omitted]

The document was sent to the Prime Minister's Office, to the foreign minister, and to the defense minister. The participants at the conference also submitted a request to meet Secretary of State Baker on this matter and sent the document to the American Consulate.

Palestinians See Progress

TA1709060891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] The secretary of state met for three and a half hours last night with the delegation of three Palestinians from the territories: Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha. After the meeting, the secretary of state left the U.S. Consulate and returned to the King David Hotel, but senior aides stayed on with the Palestinians to work on details of a memorandum of understanding.

After the meeting, the Palestinians would give few details on what is included in the document, although they did stress that progress had been made. One report says the Palestinians have agreed to delay discussion on the future of East Jerusalem. There are also reports that the Americans have agreed to an interpretation of UN Resolution 242 to mean Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories. However, these reports are still unconfirmed.

After last night's meeting, Dr. 'Ashrawi was asked if this means that Palestinians would now participate in a peace conference:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] It certainly helps to get a letter of assurances and to get clarifications in writing. It would be encouraging, but we still need further clarifications, and we still need to work out some issues that have to be agreed upon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did the idea of a delegate from Abu-Dis or al-'Ayzariyah come up?

['Ashrawi] We don't discuss micropolitics with the Americans or the nature of the specific composition of the Palestinian delegation. The principle that the Palestinians choose their own delegation is a principle that the Americans acknowledge. [end recording]

The Palestinians hope that the final draft can be drawn up at this morning's meeting. This will then be sent to the PLO in Tunis, and on the basis of the document, the question of Palestinian participation in a peace conference will be decided—probably at the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers next week.

Al-Husayni To Confer With PLO

TA1709114491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni has flown to London to report to PLO officials on the results of the latest round of talks between Secretary of State Baker, his aides, and Palestinians from the territories. Neither the U.S. officials nor the Palestinians who held further talks in East Jerusalem this morning were prepared to reveal details on those talks. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The three Palestinians who met last night with Secretary of State Baker continued discussions this morning with Baker's aides and U.S. Consul Molly Williamson at the East Jerusalem home of Faysal al-Husayni. The meeting lasted three hours, but halfway through, Faysal al-Husayni left to catch a plane to London. Before leaving he spoke to reporters:

[Al-Husayni] In this meeting we continued what we did yesterday concerning the letter of assurances. We put our comment, and we'll take the answers to the Palestinian decisionmaker so he can take his decision, and I can't add anything. Thank you.

[Weiss] Al-Husayni will inform PLO officials of the assurances the Americans were prepared to grant the Palestinians. The PLO will make the final decision on Palestinian participation in the peace conference, probably at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers next week. The other two Palestinians at this morning's meeting, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and Zakariyya al-Agha, refused to speak to reporters. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PFLP Threatens Baker Interlocutors

TA1609173891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] leaflet threatening the lives of Palestinian representatives Faysal al-Husayni, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha has been distributed in Ramallah.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the leaflet condemned the talks with Baker and expressed opposition to the peace conference.

Versions of U.S., Israeli Commitments Published

Israeli Memorandum of Agreement

TA1609133791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p 14

["Full Text of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement Israel Presented to the United States"—DAVAR headline; "exclusive" to DAVAR]

[Text]

General

1. The aim of the renewed peace process is to achieve a just, stable, and viable peace in the Middle East by the signing of peace agreements on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, while acknowledging that the various parties have different interpretations of these resolutions. It will be a two-tracked process through direct negotiations between Israel and its neighboring states (except for Egypt, with which it already has a signed peace accord), and between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

2. The negotiations will be inaugurated in a conference under the joint auspices of the United States and the USSR.

3. The direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and the neighboring states are aimed at achieving peace accords that will result in full diplomatic relations.

4. The negotiations between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are aimed at:

A. Achieving an Israeli-Jordanian peace accord.

B. Achieving interim arrangements of self-rule for five years. Starting from the third year, negotiations will be conducted on the permanent status of the territories. The negotiations will be conducted with the aim of achieving an agreement on the interim arrangements within one year.

5. Israel and the United States recognize that to achieve an overall Middle East peace, the peace circle must be expanded to include other countries in the region which continue to maintain a state of war with Israel and/or which participated in wars against Israel in the past.

Modalities

1. The invitations to the conference to be issued by the United States and the USSR as cosponsors will be agreed upon with Israel; the invitations will mention that an aim of the conference is bilateral peace accords.

2. It is understood that the USSR, a cosponsor, will renew full diplomatic relations with Israel before the invitations are issued.

3. The invitees to the conference will be: Israeli, Jordanian- Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian delegations. The invitations will be dispatched to the government leaders of Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The opening will

be at the ministerial level. The bilateral negotiations can be at the level of senior officials.

4. Egypt and the EEC Ministerial Council will be invited to participate in the conference.

5. The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will participate in the conference as an observer.

6. A UN observer, the personal representative of the secretary general, will be invited to the conference.

7. Observers will participate in the meetings of the conference but will not be able to make any speeches.

8. The conference that will inaugurate the direct bilateral negotiations will include declarations by the cosponsors, the delegations, and the Egyptian and European participants; there will be no negotiations at the conference.

9. The conference will not be able to impose solutions on the sides nor to impose a veto on the agreements to be achieved by the sides. It will not have the authority to make decisions nor to decide on issues or results.

10. The site of the opening conference will be agreed upon by all the sides.

11. Two days after the opening ceremony, the bilateral negotiations will start. The negotiations will be conducted between the sides.

12. A. Within two weeks after the opening ceremony, multilateral negotiations will begin to discuss regional issues, such as: regional security, environment, water, economic development, refugee issues, and other issues of joint interest. Members of the GCC agreed to participate in multilateral working groups. The cosponsors, Egypt, and the European participants can be invited to assist in these negotiations.

B. The United States, together with other countries, such as the G-7 (the seven industrialized states) and the Gulf states, will study the possibilities of refugee rehabilitation and economic development.

13. The locations and modalities of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations will be agreed on before the conference.

14. The United States understands the Israeli position that there is no need to reconvene the conference and that reconvening it can be considered only to report on the agreements achieved. In any case, reconvocation will be implemented only with the agreement of all the invitees. The United States, in recognizing that the negotiations must be direct and bilateral and recognizing the special status of Israel in the conference, will not support reconvening the conference if Israel opposes it.

15. When accords are achieved, the sides will be able to present them to the Security Council for its approval, and they will be recorded in the United Nations in accordance with Chapter 102 of the UN Charter.

16. Israel and the United States agree that there will not be any linkage between the various negotiations, bilateral and multilateral, and reaching an agreement in each set of negotiations will not be held up by lack of progress in another set.

The Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation

1. Israel and the United States acknowledge the importance of the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and agreed that no side in the conference will be forced to sit with anybody it cannot sit with.

2. A. In view of that, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will include Palestinians from the territories who accept the two-track approach, agree to negotiations in the aforementioned stages, are committed to living in peace with Israel, and will not be involved in terrorism and violence.

B. The delegation will not include Jerusalemites; Israel will also not sit with "outside" Palestinians or those belonging to the PLO.

C. Any deviation from the aforementioned, including actions or declarations by representatives who identify themselves with the PLO, will free Israel from all commitments linked to the conference. Therefore, Israel must know beforehand the names of those proposed for the delegation and agree to sit with them.

3. The United States has no intention of renewing its dialogue with the PLO.

4. The PLO does not have and will not have any role in the process.

5. The participation by the Government of Jordan in the interim arrangements and the negotiations must be one of substance.

Additional Subjects

1. A. The United States will do all it can to prevent any attempt to convene the UN Security Council or any other UN body for a debate or action in connection with any of the issues to be discussed in the peace process, and if necessary will vote against such attempts.

B. The United States will oppose, and if the need arises will vote against, any Security Council initiative to change Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. The United States views its role in the peace process as an honest broker. In view of that and taking into account the fact that Israel is alone in facing a group of Arab states which have been in a state of war with it since its establishment, the United States will make all efforts not to present positions to which Israel is opposed.

3. The United States will not do anything and will aspire to prevent efforts by others to bring about the consideration of proposals which it and Israel view as damaging to Israel's interests.

4. Israel and the United States reconfirm their adherence to the Camp David accords; the United States recalls, in that connection, the President's letter of 20 April 1982 to the prime minister of Israel. In addition, bilateral relations between Israel and Egypt must be expanded, as stated in the peace accord and the normalization agreements, which must be fully implemented.

5. The United States will do everything it can to achieve as soon as possible in the upcoming UN General Assembly session the cancellation of General Assembly Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism, since it acknowledges the negative and poisonous influence of that immoral resolution.

6. The United States promises Israel that the promises or guarantees given to Arab states or the Palestinians on the substance and procedure of the peace process will be made known to Israel.

7. The United States reaffirms its position that Israel has the right to secure and defensible borders (being aware that the armistice lines of 5 June 1967 are neither secure nor defensible). The borders must be discussed directly with the neighboring states.

8. The United States opposes the idea of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan.

9. Jerusalem will never be redivided. The United States notes the Israeli position that united Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel.

10. A. Existing agreements, understandings, and promises between the United States and Israel, including President Gerald Ford's letter of 1 September 1975 to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the 17 May 1983 memorandum of agreement between the Governments of the State of Israel and the United States, remain valid.

B. The United States reaffirms its support for the 17 May 1983 agreement between Lebanon and Israel, achieved with its mediation.

This memorandum of agreement details all the understandings reached between Israel and the United States in connection with the issues discussed therein and will accordingly be implemented in full.

Baker's 'Letter of Understanding'

TA1709070491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Sep 91 p 17

[By political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The full contents of the letter conveyed by Secretary of State Baker to Prime Minister Shamir have become available to our correspondent and are detailed below:

The letter's title: Letter of Understanding.

—The negotiations between Israel and its neighbors will be direct because this is the only way to guarantee genuine peace and security in the framework of a written peace treaty.

—The United States is prepared to guarantee that nothing will happen to undermine the framework it has created for the convening of a peace conference.

—If the need arises, the United States will be prepared to use its veto in the Security Council in order to assure that there will be no debate in the Council as long as the process is under way.

—The United States does not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and also does not support Israel's presence in the territories.

—All the countries involved will have the right to their own interpretations of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

—The U.S. position on the fate of Jerusalem is that it must not be divided and that its status will be determined in negotiations.

—The United States will work to bring about the end of the Arab economic boycott.

The Conference

—The conference will not have the authority to impose solutions, veto agreements, make decisions, or vote on any issue.

—The conference will reconvene only with the agreement of all the sides.

—The aim of the conference is to start direct and bilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbors two days after the opening session. Multilateral talks will start within two weeks of the conference's opening.

—The negotiations between the sides will be conducted along two tracks: between Israel and the Arab states and between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

—The negotiations with the Palestinians will be conducted in two stages: negotiations for the establishment of self-rule, which will last up to a year; in the third year of self-rule, a discussion will begin on the permanent settlement and will continue for up to five years.

—No side will be forced to sit with anyone with whom it does not want to sit.

—The USSR will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel prior to the conference.

—On Syria: The United States recognizes Israeli security concerns and the security importance it attaches to the Golan Heights. The United States is committed to President Ford's letter of 1975 to Prime Minister

Rabin and attaches weight to Israel's position about remaining on the Golan Heights.

—The Camp David accords are the cornerstone of the peace process, and the peace agreement with Egypt will serve as an example for other agreements sought.

—The United States wants to continue to work with Israel to advance the peace process on the basis of mutual trust.

The letter stresses that the United States will act as an honest broker in the negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. Secretary Baker also stresses that "it is not the aim of the United States to bring about negotiations between Israel and the PLO and that during the conference, the United States will make sure that all the agreements reached between the sides will be adhered to by the participants."

U.S. 16 May Memorandum of Understanding

TA1609121591 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p A4

["Exclusive" publication of "the formulation of the draft memorandum of understanding prepared by the U.S. team on 16 May," by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The U.S. memorandum of understanding was drafted on 16 May and served as the basis for the draft letter of assurances Israel prepared. The letter is meant to be endorsed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to anchor in writing the understandings reached with Israel during negotiations:

1. The aim of the peace process is a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. The process will proceed on two tracks through direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries and between Israel and the Palestinians.

3. To this end, a conference will convene, under the auspices of the United States and the USSR, to launch direct multilateral and bilateral negotiations to confront broad regional problems, such as arms supervision, regional security, the environment, water, economic development, refugee matters, and other issues of common interest.

4. The United States and the USSR will chair the conference, which will be held at ministerial or other high-ranking government level. The invitees will include Egyptians, Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians, and Palestinians. The Gulf Cooperation Council has agreed to send its secretary general as an observer. The conference will not have the power to impose solutions on the parties or veto agreements reached by them. It will have no authority to make decisions for the parties, nor will it be able to vote on the issues or the results.

5. Bilateral talks will start within two days of the convening of the conference.

6. The sponsors would prefer that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation be composed to attend the negotiations with Israel within the framework of bilateral working teams. Direct negotiations in these working teams will be held in stages. Initially, talks will be held on the interim arrangement of self-rule (which will last five years), to be followed, beginning in the third year of the five-year transition process, by direct negotiations on the permanent status. The discussions on the interim arrangement for self-rule will be held with the aim of attaining an agreement within one year.

7. As the Palestinians will eventually have to elect their own representatives, the Palestinian component of the aforementioned joint delegation with Jordan will have to be composed of Palestinian residents of the territories who accept the two-track approach, who agree to talks in stages as described above, and who are committed to living in peace with Israel.

8. The sponsors realize that no party, including Israel, will be forced to sit down with anyone with whom it cannot sit.

9. The negotiations in the multilateral working teams will start within two weeks of the day the conference convenes. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries have agreed to take part in the multilateral teams.

10. Should one or more of the invitees refuse to attend the conference, it should still be held with the remaining invitees.

[At the bottom of the document, MA'ARIV carries the following footnote: "This document also referred to the disagreement between Israel and the United States—which prevailed at the time the document was drafted—concerning the participation of a UN observer, the reconvening of the conference following the agreement of all the parties, and the participation of the EC. In the interim, these obstacles have been removed through an exchange of letters between Bush and Shamir and the recent phone conversation with the U.S. secretary of state, wherein Shamir gave Baker a conditional yes."]

Shamir Interviewed on Relations With Bush

TA1709090991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (YOM KIPPUR EVE supplement) in Hebrew 17 Sep 91 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yo'el Esteron, Tzvi Gilat, and Hanan Kristal at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 16 September]

[Excerpts] [HADASHOT] Mr. Prime Minister, will you in the final analysis agree to discuss a 120-day delay in the granting of the guarantees?

[Shamir] Why do you ask whether I will agree or not? We are not conducting negotiations with the Americans on the guarantees. We asked for....there are currently discussions going on there among themselves, and I will not interfere in them. If somebody comes and asks me for advice, I may or may not give it.

[HADASHOT] Why does President Bush want a delay of 120 days?

[Shamir] I do not know why he wants a delay. That is what concerns and worries me.

[HADASHOT] He did not explain it to you personally?

[Shamir] He did not....nobody explained it.

[HADASHOT] Perhaps through diplomatic channels?

[Shamir] I do not know. To date, I do not know the reason for the delay.

[HADASHOT] What difference does it make if we get the guarantees now or in four months?

[Shamir] It makes very little difference. It is a question of interest rates. Some have even said that we can manage with the expenditures resulting from the delay, but we do not know....the thing is very strange.

[HADASHOT] Why do you think he became angry? What caused that outbreak?

[Shamir] He has been angry with us for some time, I believe.

[HADASHOT] Since when?

[Shamir] Since he....but I do not have to analyze him.

[HADASHOT] In your opinion, was there something specific that set off the outburst at this particular time?

[Shamir] No. It is clear that he does not want to give us the guarantees. He must have become angry, perhaps because he heard that the view in Congress differs from his. That is why he became angry.

[HADASHOT] It was not something we did or did not do—for instance, the latest statement by Minister Sharon on settlement policy?

[Shamir] I do not believe that such things have an impact.

[HADASHOT] THE NEW YORK TIMES claims that all the outbursts are because he does not like you.

[Shamir] Nonsense, really nonsense. Excuse me, but that is bunk.

[HADASHOT] But it was THE NEW WORK TIMES.

[Shamir] It is all propaganda to put something across or perhaps to provide excuses instead of the real reason, since it is not because I am liked or disliked that a 120-day delay is being asked for. What connection is there between the two, what logic? But it is strange. Congressmen asked him: Will they receive it after 120 days or not? He did not want to say. He says: Why should I say? That shows that he does not want to provide them even after 120 days.

[HADASHOT] After what you have just said, do you still have the same trust in the U.S. President?

[Shamir] Journalists talk about trust. In business, do you hear people talk about trust? Some people do not believe in anything. Usually there are contracts, there are agreements. It is not a question of personal feelings, of trust or lack of trust.

[HADASHOT] Research has been done on the importance of personal relations between leaders and their influence on processes.

[Shamir] Everybody knows that (personal relations) are not the real reason. In politics, one must look for the political considerations.

[HADASHOT] There is talk in Washington that he telephones his friend Husni Mubarak from his bedroom. Perhaps that friendship is why Bush does not talk about the massive aid to Egypt in terms like: "We are giving $1,000 for every Israeli man, woman, and child."

[Shamir] The attitude to Egypt is more than generous, but the attitude to Husni Mubarak is an offshoot of the political attitude. They had $7 billion worth of debts written off. Is that because he calls Mubarak from his bedroom? On the contrary, it is because the policy is benevolent that he also conducts cordial relations with him. That is the policy.

[HADASHOT] In other words, chemistry between leaders is of no importance.

[Shamir] It has very minor and marginal importance.

[HADASHOT] The Palestinians claimed in the past that the Americans are not "an honest broker." After Bush's latest remarks, is he "an honest broker" in Israel's eyes? There are people in your government who no longer trust him.

[Shamir] So what? If there is one opinion or another, there is no choice but to keep it to yourself. We would not decide whether or not to take steps toward peace on the basis of our attitude toward a particular person.

[HADASHOT] Do you think that the Bush administration is "an honest broker?"

[Shamir] I do not have to respond to that.

[HADASHOT] President Bush sharply opposes settlements in the territories.

[Shamir] That is known.

[HADASHOT] He also claims—and spokesman have said as much in his name—that you have broken promises on that.

[Shamir] We never promised.

[HADASHOT] Perhaps we can clarify this once and for all.

[Shamir] We never made any promises. Even if I wanted to, I am incapable of doing so. I cannot do it, because I oppose this. I cannot make such a promise; that is why I did not promise. Perhaps he once thought so, considered it, I do not know. Anyway, I did not promise anybody anything about a move we could not make in Eretz Yisra'el. It is clear as the midday sun that Eretz Yisra'el is ours; therefore, I cannot promise anybody anything that contradicts that.

[HADASHOT] Not even for three months, like Menahem Begin did at the time?

[Shamir] I am not sure that Menahem Begin (promised). There are differences of opinion about whether he promised or not. I believe he did not promise.

[HADASHOT] Are you saying that you will not promise to freeze settlement or make such a move within the framework of any sort of negotiations?

[Shamir] I do not believe it is justified or that it should be done. It is a fact that the Alignment never promised such a thing. Even when Rabin was prime minister, he did not promise this.

[HADASHOT] We could make a commitment that next year there will be no more settlers than this year—that sort of commitment.

[Shamir] Why? Will children not be born there? The population there will not grow? That is a natural process. Just as the population grows in all of Eretz Yisra'el, it will also grow in those areas; I have no doubt about that. We gave one promise to the Russians: We promised not to direct Soviet aliyah to those areas. They asked for this as a condition for allowing aliyah. So we said to them: Okay, we will not direct immigrants to these areas that are controversial. We are keeping that promise. We do not forbid Soviet immigrants from going there. So...a minute percentage goes there: 1 percent. The Americans found a bigger percentage because they also took Jerusalem into account.

[HADASHOT] Under the new circumstances, do you believe there will be a conference and if so, when?

[Shamir] I assume it will take place. In my view, if we consider who will want it and who will not, then right now I do not see any element that does not want it, except perhaps for Arab extremists.

[HADASHOT] There are also some in Israel.

[Shamir] Anyway, there are no disruptive elements.

[HADASHOT] There are those in the government who oppose it.

[Shamir] So what? The government made a decision. It has already decided on that, and we abide by that decision. Therefore, I do not see any reason for such a move on our part, unless the Arabs or the PLO will not want it for their own reasons and will drag the other Arabs after them.

[HADASHOT] And the date?

[Shamir] It is not so important that it be in October. But if all the elements support it, why postpone it?

[HADASHOT] Is there no difference between October and November?

[Shamir] No.

[HADASHOT] Israel aspires to reach some sort of memorandum of understanding with the United States. If there is no such memorandum, will this decide whether not we attend the conference?

[Shamir] We will see what the dispute is over. If it is over very basic issues, then I do not know; we will see.

[HADASHOT] For instance, over the issue of the Palestinian representation.

[Shamir] It is not only a question of a piece of paper; this is a practical issue.

[HADASHOT] At Camp David, the Israeli delegation was headed by the prime minister. Who will head the delegation this time?

[Shamir] This is merely the meeting that will launch the entire process, at which each side will make opening speeches; that is all.

[HADASHOT] The prime minister or the foreign minister?

[Shamir] It does not matter. In my opinion, if a speech at that occasion reflects the government's position, it does not matter who makes it. It is not important in a way that makes a difference.

[HADASHOT] Is it symbolically significant?

[Shamir] We are not talking about negotiations. In negotiations, it matters, because it binds the government. Here it does not.

[HADASHOT] In your opinion, will the people of Israel support the settlement policy, even if it causes difficulties in the absorption of immigrants and in welfare matters?

[Shamir] This is a warped question. When the people of Israel are asked which policy they support, they will be presented with the territorial question and, as I always say, the Americans also regard the settlements as a facet of the controversial territorial issue. So, when Israelis are asked whether they are for or against the 1967 borders, I think they will answer that no way will they agree to the 1967 borders. I have no doubt that the people of Israel will say no way to the 1967 borders.

[HADASHOT] Do you believe the concept of Greater Israel is endorsed by a majority in Israel?

[Shamir] I am not positive that there is a majority in favor of 100 percent of Greater Israel, but I am positive that there is a majority against the 1967 borders.

[HADASHOT] Aside from being a facet of the territorial issue, this question is also related to the investment of resources in the current year.

[Shamir] This is not a matter of investing resources. The investment of resources is the result of an ideological approach which involves the question of why we are here, what the purpose of our living here is. This determines our priorities. Some people may have also said that money should not be invested in the absorption of immigrants. This has been said.

[HADASHOT] It would seem—at least to an observer—that in the short term and in the context of the confrontation with the United States, there is a need to make a choice between the continuation of settlement activity in the territories and U.S. aid for the absorption of immigrants.

[Shamir] Who says a choice must be made? There is no need to make a choice.

[HADASHOT] You mean the two can be done at the same time?

[Shamir] To whatever extent possible. [passage omitted]

[HADASHOT] The law says elections should be held in November 1992. Are you interested in holding them earlier?

[Shamir] No.

[HADASHOT] Why?

[Shamir] For me, the best thing is to hold elections on their legal date, once every four years. This is not always possible, but even when it is not, the period between the date stipulated by law and the one dictated by reality should be as brief as possible.

[HADASHOT] What does brief mean? May instead of November?

[Shamir] May instead of November is better than January instead of November. It sometimes happens that there is a government crisis, no side is capable of setting up a coalition, and the Knesset then decides to disperse.

[HADASHOT] Are there internal Likud reasons for holding early elections? The Central Committee convention, for instance?

[Shamir] No one is afraid of the Central Committee convention. No one is afraid of that. We know what the stands of most of the Likud members are. The vast majority of the Likud supports the existing leadership.

[HADASHOT] Then why is it that the Likud Central Committee has not been convened for over 15 months?

[Shamir] Because of legal and other reasons.

[HADASHOT] The Labor Party Central Committee convened more than ten times during that period.

[Shamir] They have nothing else to do.

[HADASHOT] Will you run for another term in office?

[Shamir] What is the connection?

[HADASHOT] Do you intend to run?

[Shamir] I have not decided yet. [passage omitted]

[HADASHOT] What is your political and personal soul-searching for the outgoing year?

[Shamir] Overall, it was a good year.

[HADASHOT] Despite the war?

[Shamir] We came out of the war more or less okay. With no serious hits. There was a war, and it is over. There was an enormous achievement in aliyah, a dream which is coming true.

[HADASHOT] What is your hope for the new year?

[Shamir] That immigrant absorption be more convincing, that the peace process advance in the direction we want. That is sufficient. The economy will improve.

[HADASHOT] And in the personal sphere?

[Shamir] That is it. That is personal.

[HADASHOT] Is the freeing of the POW's and MIA's a matter of days, weeks, or months?

[Shamir] It is difficult to say. Anyway, it is a lengthy process. We see the days passing, and we are not dealing with elements with whom anything can be decided clearly. We hope that in the final analysis, we will achieve something.

[HADASHOT] Is there nothing clearer about the time element?

[Shamir] No.

Arens—Arrest of Abu-Hilal Under Consideration

TA1609155691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The judicial systems of the Defense Ministry and the police are studying whether 'Ali Abu-Hilal, the returned deportee who declared that he was continuing his activities in the PLO executive body, should be arrested, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and the police commissioner told Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen.

Ms. Kohen paid a condolence visit to the family of Samir As'ad and heard the family's protest that the deportee was returned to Israel in the same plane in which their son's body was returned. For us it was like killing Samir all over again, his father said.

Rightists Call for Halt to Political Moves

TA1709121491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Reactions to Secretary Baker's talks: Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen of the Tehiya is calling on the prime minister to engage in soul-searching on Yom Kippur and to stop all the political moves. She is afraid they will result in a political Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] for Israel.

Tehiya Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni says Faysal al-Husayni is traveling to London to meet with PLO officials, thereby setting the pattern and precedent of receiving instructions from this organization. MK Ha'etzni says that the Israeli Government's agreement to this practice proves that the formulas agreed upon with the Americans are of no importance.

Youth Movements Protest Baker Visit

TA1609203991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Israel is accompanied by demonstrations of protest. Tomatoes were thrown this afternoon at the secretary of state's convoy at the entrance to Jerusalem. While Baker was meeting the prime minister in Jerusalem, members of the Moledet and Tehiya youth movements demonstrated opposite the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. They shouted Baker Go Home, and carried placards stating that Israel was not a banana republic.

Our correspondent Moti Kohen reports that the demonstrations caused traffic disruptions near the embassy. The demonstrators later drove to Jerusalem, and tonight they intend to hold a torch vigil opposite Baker's hotel.

Sharon Briefs Knesset on Housing Starts in Areas

TA1609162691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon today gave the Knesset Economy Committee his ministry's data on the scope of building in the territories. From April 1990 through today over 15,000 housing starts have begun in the territories. This is one-sixth of the total number of housing starts in Israel. Our correspondent Galya Marom reports:

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon was invited to appear before the Knesset Economy Committee. The minister briefed the committee members on the ramifications of the cut in the Construction and Housing Ministry's budget, telling them that leaving the budget at its reduced level is very dangerous. During the meeting Sharon gave the ministry's data on construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip between 1 April 1990 until today. Sharon said that the sum of all housing starts during this period was 15,780, out of which 3,500 were trailers and mobile homes. The rest, approximately 12,500, were housing starts for permanent structures.

Sharon also addressed the criticism leveled at him regarding the scope of construction in the territories and said that if people were claiming that construction there had tripled while his data showed that work on construction throughout the rest of the country was tenfold, then the territories were lagging behind the other areas. The total number of housing starts in the country for the period Sharon spoke about totaled 93,000 housing starts, or in other words, the Construction and Housing Ministry's building efforts in the territories amounted to approximately one-sixth of all construction work carried out in the country.

Last week, Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker sent the prime minister a document in which he claimed that the data issued by Minister Sharon was false and that 19,000 housing units in the territories were currently in various stages of construction.

Investment in Industry in Territories Triples

TA1609061691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Gid'on Rotem]

[Text] Authorization for investments in industry and tourism in settlements beyond the Green Line in the first six months of 1991 has reached $50 million, approximately 5 percent of the total $1.1 billion in investments approved in the same period.

A report compiled by a special Peace Now monitoring team reveals that the approved sum is three times higher than that of the same period last year. Peace Now claims that not only has the Construction and Housing Ministry expanded the scope of its activities in the territories, but that the Industry and Trade Ministry has done the same through its investment centers. In the area of Barqan in Samaria, 25 factories received investment authorizations, more than any other industrial zone in Israel. This figure includes new permits and the expansion of existing factories. Approximately $30 million was approved for investment in the Barqan area alone.

In the territories, 52 projects were approved for investment. Of these, 37 are in Samaria, five in Mate Binyamin, six in Judaea, two in the Jordan Rift Valley, and one in the Gaza Strip. Peace Now notes that the largest investments in the settlements have been in factories manufacturing prefabs. Most of the investments are made in factories that employ a relatively large number of workers.

The Industry and Trade Ministry has said in response that all its activities are conducted in accordance with the law and are based on a government decision. There were vacant industrial buildings in the Barqan area, and investors preferred to set up factories there as opposed to other parts of Israel because the infrastructure was already in place.

Poll Probes Attitudes Toward Settlement, Peace

TA1209145791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Sep p 10

[Text] This is a poll that was conducted in July 1991 by the "Dahaf" Institute under Dr. Mina Tzemah. The poll was commissioned by MAPAM [United Workers Party] and is based on answers given by 1,004 people constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding members of kibbutzim. The data were collected during the second half of July 1991.

Positions regarding settlements

The respondents were asked the following two questions:

1) If it became clear that the U.S. secretary of state was right in stating that the settlements preclude the launching of peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, what would you recommend to the government?

2) If it became clear that the government's settlement policy is causing the United States to withhold economic aid that would help in the absorption of immigrants and prevent severe unemployment, what would you recommend to the government?

1) Breakdown of respondents according to what they would recommend to the government if the secretary of state claims that the settlements are preventing the launching of peace negotiations:

A) Ignore the secretary of state and continue to establish settlements: percentage of total sample—27; percentage of Labor supporters—10; percentage of Likud supporters—41; percentage of left-wing supporters—7; percentage of right-wing supporters—52; percentage of new voters—33.

B) Stop the settlements and give peace a serious chance: total sample—39; Labor—64; Likud—25; Left wing—75; Right wing—16; new voters—31.

C) Call a temporary halt to settlement to probe the Arabs' intentions: total sample—28; Labor—26; Likud—34; Left wing—18; Right wing—32; new voters—35.

D) Did not respond: total sample—6; Labor—0; Likud—0; Left wing—0; Right wing—0; new voters—1.

2) Breakdown of respondents according to what they would recommend the government do if it became clear that the settlements are precluding aid from the United States:

A) Stop settlement activity in the territories in order to absorb immigration: total sample—50; Labor—75; Likud—35; Left wing—86; Right wing—38; new voters—40.

B) Limit the number of immigrants per year: total sample—13; Labor—11; Likud—19; Left wing—3; Right wing—15; new voters—22.

C) Pay for immigration by lowering the standard of living: total sample—9; Labor—6; Likud—9; Left wing—4; Right wing—11; new voters—13.

D) Do not change anything, things will work themselves out: total sample—19; Labor—7; Likud—32; Left wing—7; Right wing—33; new voters—24.

E) Other responses: total sample—1; Labor—1; Likud—2; Left wing—0; Right wing—0; new voters—0.

F) Did not respond: total sample—8; Labor—0; Likud—3; Left wing—0; Right wing—3; new voters—1.

Perception of priorities of various issues.

The respondents were asked the following questions:

1. Following is a list of issues the State of Israel should deal with. For each one, please note whether you would like the party you support or tend to support to place it at the top of its priorities.

2. Please review the list of issues and note the two issues you would like the party you support to deal with. State their order of priority.

The table lists the order of priority of the various issues and the percentage of the respondents who noted them as the most important. (The data show the total sample and a breakdown into groups of voters).

A. Care for human rights: Labor—5.8; Likud—5.6; Left wing—12.3; Right wing—5.5; new voters—4.2; total sample—7.1.

B. Fighting corruption in the public service: Labor—4.0; Likud—7.8; Left wing—5.8; Right wing—8.5; new voters—7.9; total sample—7.1.

C. Issues of state and religion: Labor—2.7; Likud—1.6; Left wing—3.2; Right wing—3.0; new voters—4.3; total sample—2.0.

D. Constitution for Israel: Labor—3.5; Likud—3.5; Left wing—6.6; Right wing—1.5; new voters—3.5; total sample—4.2.

E. Immigrant absorption: Labor—19.0; Likud—13.2; Left wing—12.0; Right wing—10.0; new voters—13.6; total sample—13.3.

F. Change of the administration system through direct elections: Labor—9.5; Likud—5.5; Left wing—4.0; Right wing—13.5; new voters—5.6; total sample—8.0.

G. Creation of new jobs and prevention of unemployment: Labor—18.5; Likud—23.5; Left wing—15.4; Right wing—27.0; new voters—24.3; total sample—15.3.

H. Helping released soldiers: Labor—9.2; Likud—23.7; Left wing—15.4; Right wing—27.0; new voters—13.1; total sample—8.3.

I. Advancing the peace process: Labor—27.8; Likud—21.0; Left wing—32.7; Right wing—11.5; new voters—20.2; total sample—25.7.

J. Continuation and expansion of settlements: Labor—0; Likud—4.1; Left wing—0; Right wing—10.0; new voters—3.3; total sample—3.6.

Lubrani—No New Information on POW's, MIA's

TA1609204291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The UN secretary general did not bring any substantial new information on the Israeli POW's and MIA's from his meetings in Tehran. This statement was made this evening by Uri Lubrani, head of Israel's negotiating team, upon his return from the meeting with Perez de Cuellar. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe pointed out that the officials involved in the negotiations stressed that the talks must be continued outside the media limelight.

Hasan, UK Official Discuss Peace Prospects

JN1609154991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Patrick Fairweather, deputy under secretary of state for Middle Eastern and African affairs at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His highness reviewed current efforts to bring peace to the region and the hardship suffered by Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait, and the impact the deportation of a considerable number of them has had on Jordan's economic and social fabric. The British ambassador in Amman also attended the meeting.

Emerging from the meeting, Mr. Fairweather stressed to journalists the centrality of Jordan's role in regional peace efforts. He said Jordan has a key role to play, and expressed the hope that the question of Palestinian representation at the peace conference will be resolved in cooperation with the Jordanian Government. My meeting with his highness the crown prince, he added, has been an opportunity for me to become acquainted firsthand with regional problems, especially when efforts are being made to address them. He indicated that this is the first time there is a feeling of optimism over a possible peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestinian question. Along with its partners in the EC, which will be present at the peace conference set for October, his country will work to promote a solution, Mr. Fairweather said.

Islamic Action Front Formed as Response to Left

PM1609093391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Formation of Fundamentalist Front in Jordan"]

[Text] Fundamentalist parties, organizations, and societies in Jordan have agreed to join forces in a front called the Islamic Action Front [jabhat al-'amal al-islami]. The front aims to exercise political, party, and organizational action in Jordan from an Islamic perspective.

The formation of the Islamic Action Front comes as a response to the leftist and secular groups and organizations' formation of a grouping for themselves called the "Democratic National Grouping" [al-tajamu' al-watani al-democrati].

The Islamic Action Front's Constituent Assembly includes 25 members from among the most notable leaders of the fundamentalist societies and organizations in Jordan.

Syria's Khaddam Arrives 'Unexpectedly'

NC1609154591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Beirut unexpectedly at 1745 today. He left for the temporary presidential office, where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The cabinet, which was in session at the time, continued its meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

Khaddam Surveys Issues

NC1609200491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has indirectly urged Ministers Nabih Birri and Muhammad Baydun to reconsider their resignations by expressing his belief that the two ministers will continue to assume their national responsibilities and to work within the cabinet.

Speaking after a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening, Khaddam said: Judging by Birri's words, he did not resign but spoke about resigning if this or that matter did not take place. He said such matters could be discussed at the cabinet, hoping that this will happen. Khaddam added that President al-Hirawi played a major role in attaining peace along with the prime minister and the ministers. He added: Minister Birri is a key national figure who contributed toward achieving national accord.

Regarding the hostages, Khaddam hoped this year will see the end of this issue. He reiterated the call that the implementation of Resolution 425 be separated from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Khaddam is now meeting with President al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Karami at a luncheon.

[Paris AFP in English at 1838 GMT on 16 September in a report from Beirut on Khaddam's remarks adds:

"Israel wants to sabotage chances for convening a Middle East peace conference, Syrian Vice President Abd-al-Halim Khaddam charged here Monday.

"'It is clear that the Israelis are making huge efforts to sabotage the peace conference because they refuse to respect international law, withdraw from occupied Arab land, and recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people,' Khaddam told journalists after meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas al- Hirawi."]

Holds News Conference

NC1709095691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Statement by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents at a news conference after Khaddam's meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 16 September—recorded]

[Text] In the region's present circumstances and on the occasion of his excellency the president's visit to the (?United Nation), it is natural for the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments to hold consultations and exchange views. This is why his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to come to Beirut to meet with his excellency the president, with brother Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and with his excellency Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to exchange views on the various issues that concern Syria and Lebanon in the current difficult regional circumstances.

I have held a preliminary meeting with his excellency the president. I am now waiting for his excellency Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and brother Prime Minister 'Umar Karami to arrive. Karami is now chairing the cabinet meeting.

I can say that throughout the discussions, and by virtue of our joint interests, we always reach common conclusions. This is why I came here.

[Question] Mr. Vice President: Did you discuss the recent resignations from the government, especially after recent reports about a meeting in Shtawrah?

[Khaddam] In fact, no meeting was scheduled to be held in Shtawrah. What has been published about such a meeting is not accurate. As for the resignation of brothers Nabih Birri and Muhammad Baydun, I naturally discussed this matter with Nabih during his visit to Damascus. We broached the reasons which prompted his resignation. Judging by what Birri said, he did not resign. He spoke about resigning if certain things did not take place. These things happen in most institutions all over the world, not only in Lebanon. Views are presented and it is beneficial, naturally, to discuss any view and to reach an understanding at the institutional level. It is known that Nabih Birri is a national leader who has contributed to achieving the national accord. I believe that brother Nabih continues to shoulder his national responsibilities by working in the cabinet.

[Question] Do we understand from your statement that you have advised Minister Birri to discuss this subject at a cabinet meeting?

[Khaddam] I personally believe that the subjects that have been raised can be discussed in the cabinet. As we are aware, his excellency the president has played a basic role in attaining peace in Lebanon, ending the war, and realizing the national accord along with brother Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and the brother Lebanese ministers. They all can discuss these issues with national spirit and achieve results that will ensure the unity of the institution and unity of government action. Naturally, we hope that this will be achieved.

[Question] Mr. Vice President, it has been said that 1991 will be the year of hostage releases. What is your opinion?

[Khaddam] This (?issue) is regrettable, saddening, and harmful. Basically, there is no justification whatsoever for kidnappings or for the continuation of the issue. We hope that this year will be a year of ending this problem, which is really as much a burden on the kidnappers as on the kidnapped.

[Question] Mr. Vice President, do you think that the implementation of Resolution 425 is near?

[Khaddam] We believe that the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanese territory should be viewed separately from the Arab-Israeli conflict in its general framework—the so-called Middle East crisis. During the past few years, we acted to achieve this separation because the occupation is governed by Resolution 425. We believe that the implementation of this resolution must be a basic condition in all the contacts we hold with foreign forces whether in Europe or any other state because Resolution 425 is clear and its implementation constitutes a basic step which we must act to realize.

[Question] [words indistinct] is there talk about postponing it?

[Khaddam] We are (?waiting for) the American secretary of state's visit. We do not know (?what is happening). Following our discussions with him, we can decide whether the conference will be held at the scheduled date proposed by the Americans and the Soviets or not. It is clear that the Israelis are exerting enormous efforts to prevent this conference from convening. They basically reject international legitimacy and refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights. We hear Israeli statements daily. Every one of these statements is enough to torpedo any international effort. In spite of this, however, we continue to cooperate with the international community to hold the conference in order to implement international legitimacy's resolutions—the UN resolutions. We hope that this will be achieved soon.

[Question] Is there a date to convene a the Lebanese-Syrian supreme council before the departure of the three leaders [al-Hirawi, Karami, and al-Husayni for New York]?

[Khaddam] Yes. This matter was discussed and the Supreme Council will be convened after his excellency the president returns from the United Nations.

[Indistinct question on the hostage issue]

[Khaddam] We are exerting efforts. We hope that these efforts will led to the release of the hostages, naturally in cooperation with other parties in the region—Iran and some Lebanese parties..

Amal's Leader Al-Musawi Interviewed

NC1309105591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Interview with Islamic Amal leader Husayn al-Musawi by unidentified Voice of the Oppressed correspondent during the "Friday Encounter" program; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] The issue of the hostages has regained the momentum it lost earlier to the political developments that took place in the Soviet Union. This new momentum has spawned some developments, such as the release of a number of our brother detainees in the occupation troops' prisons. In an attempt on our part to keep abreast of the developments in this issue, we had this lengthy interview with one who is viewed in the West as the person most directly concerned with the matter, and in the East as the spokesman for the issue. We will meet today with one of the key figures of Islamic action in Lebanon; brother al-Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi. Welcome.

[Al-Musawi] Thank you.

[Correspondent] The hostage issue today is the subject of noticeable activity that some observers say will herald the end of this matter. In your capacity as a person who is thoroughly informed about the matter, do you believe the observers' views are correct?

[Al-Musawi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad and his good and blessed relations and companions. Regarding the hostage issue, perhaps it would be fruitful to remind our people everywhere that this file was opened by the groups loyal to America and Israel in Lebanon. The satanic Western media and their subservient media in our region are giving the victim—the targeted and oppressed people, and the Muslims in particular—the impression that he is the aggressor and the wolf. The fact is that we know that America is the wolf and Israel is the wolf. We are not the lamb, either, but they look at us and treat us as such. They treat us according to the mentality and the psychology of the wolf, if the wolf had such things. [passage omitted]

I hope our people will understand that this is certainly the case at hand. We are the victims, the ones unjustly treated, the target, the ones who are being bombarded by their planes, tanks, and rockets, and the subject of their rancor. Sometimes the media, because of its wickedness and satanic power, which seems to be invincible but will certainly be defeated by the force of right sooner or later [incomplete sentence as heard] Let us return to the issue of the hostages. Regarding the hostage issue, if you sound out the opinion of many of our people, perhaps they will say: There are some extremist groups who have caused us headaches and created problems for us, and they chose no less than the Americans, the French, the English, and Israelis to be their targets, although we are no match for them.

Recently the media have been linking foreign aid to Lebanon, from Europe and elsewhere, to the hostage issue. This is an attempt to put pressure on various parties to influence the Islamic resistance, Hizballah, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Syria. The brother Syrians are being asked to end the hostage issue so aid may arrive in Lebanon. This is an attempt at aggression and a full distortion of facts.

Who opened the file of the hostages? Who was the first to hold a hostage in Lebanon? We have not forgotten yet. We are in 1991. In 1982 there were no hostages. Four brother Iranian diplomats were traveling to their embassy in Beirut. They took the Tripoli road. They passed the al-Barbarah roadblock. They disappeared. We asked Samir Ja'ja': Where are they? He answered: Ask Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces commander]. We asked Elie Hubayqah: Where are they? He answered: Samir Ja'ja' has them.

These diplomats were our brothers and shared our religion. They were our guests. Let us not say they were Iranians but other ordinary diplomats. According to national logic—if some people like us to speak according to national logic—they were our guests and diplomats accredited to Lebanon. Where are they?

Why should the world raise an uproar because of a spy? I did not say he was a spy. After his story ended, they would admit that he had a number and had joined the CIA on such and such a date. He worked and served. All this is mentioned in their reports. Because of a spy, the world is turned upside down. Diplomats serving a foreign country, be it the Islamic Republic or any other country, in Lebanon, disappeared. Where are they? We are being asked to forget them.

The local and international security authorities know that neither the Hizballah leadership nor Hizballah has anything to do with the hostage issue in one way or another. Yes, at the beginning and before Hizballah was formed, we detained 27 persons in reaction to the kidnapping of the Iranian diplomats and the issue ended at this point. However, mutual kidnappings started to take place between West Beirut and East Beirut. People were being kidnapped in West Beirut so people kidnapped in East Beirut would be released.

Regarding foreigners, Hizballah is not responsible for the kidnapping of one foreigner. There are Islamic groups who acted independently and who embarked on such a course. We are not in a position to judge their decision, but an objective person, if he wants to be fair, would say: Is there another way to deal with the aggressive Americans, Israelis, and Europeans, who disregard all our values, sanctities, lives, and entities? These groups want to defend their rights. What else can they do? If you take my son, what shall I do? I will think of taking your son.

They opened this file and did not know how to close it. Some people think we violate the rights of others. I am speaking about the Islamic side in general, which is not directly responsible for the kidnappings. The security authorities know very well that there are Islamic parties and groups, whose members are known, which are responsible for the kidnappings. In other words, they know who is the Islamic Jihad and who is the Revolutionary Justice Organization. They know that these groups act independently and are not connected with Hizballah.

We repeat for the thousandth time, we wish to live in peace with people. But when it comes to those who fight us, if we do not fight them personally, and other good and pious people offer to fight them, we cannot prevent people from defending themselves, their cause, dignity, and existence. When the [1983] attack on the U.S. Marines occurred, they accused me personally of being responsible for blowing up the Marines and the Frenchmen. The media spoke a great deal about this issue, saying so-and-so is responsible. At that time, I said in one interview that I was not directly responsible for the incident, but it disturbed me that I was not responsible because it was an honor of which I was deprived. I am not ashamed of killing the American who is killing me. Those who blew up the Marines did not blow them up in New York or California. They blew them up in Beirut because they were invaders and occupiers. What had they come here to do? They came to support Israel and to support political Maronism, which serves Israel. Of course, when we speak of political Maronism, we distinguish between political Maronism as a political doctrine serving global arrogance, Zionism, and our nation's (?enemies) and the ordinary Maronite or Christian. Such a person has no connection with it. Of course, if he is not part of this framework or formula that is hostile to our religion and our nation, then he is our friend and brother. We have no quarrel with religious beliefs or sects as such. Our quarrel is with the political posture—with the political, military, and security trend that is fighting us.

[Correspondent] Certainly this trend also includes non-Maronites.

[Al-Musawi] Of course, it also includes some Muslims who are politically affiliated with political Maronism. We are saying this issue must be ended. I have no objection at all to closing this issue. We are the followers of the Hashemite Prophet whom God sent only as an act of mercy to people. A true Muslim among us will not accept to be anything but a merciful person who deals with other people amicably, with friendship and love. Nevertheless, we learned in the school of the Commander of the Faithful 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib [fourth Muslim Caliph], may God's prayers be on him, to throw back the stone that is thrown at us because evil is only repulsed by evil. This means that if someone casts a stone at me, I will not cast a flower back at him. I cannot do that. I will be encouraging evil. He who attacks you, you must attack in the same way.

We have no objection to ending the issue of hostages—those who are innocent and those who are guilty among them. I am speaking in my capacity as an ordinary Muslim who has an opinion to express, not because I am directly concerned with the hostage issue. This is now known although, not only with regard to the Marines issue, but with regard to the hostage issue, many circles believed that I was personally responsible for the issue. Later on, everyone learned that there are special groups concerned with this issue. We are calling for closing the hostage file today, Friday, not tomorrow, not Saturday. Let them release all the Muslim and patriotic detainees they are holding and, I believe, our brothers in the Islamic Jihad or Revolutionary Justice Organizations will not be late in responding. I call them our brothers although we do not have direct relations with them. They are, however, honorable young men who have defended the people's dignity although they have sometimes done so in a method that is different. Methods used by one group with a certain mentality differ from those used by another. What is important then is this: Let them release our detainees from the Israeli enemy's prisons and Europe's prisons and I believe that no Western detainee will remain in our country. Our detainees also include the Iranians. These top the list. They are the foremost among the fighters.

The question is that some people believe that we can be hardliners, extremists, and terrorists as an Islamic group in Lebanon. Nevertheless, we have the capability to deal with utter mercy and with utter love with all people if they deal with us in the same way.

Among our detainees there are Iranian brothers, Lebanese brothers, women and men, Palestinians who are also our brothers, and a number of Syrian brothers who were arrested in the Golan Heights. All these are supposed to be released. Then the parties who got involved in this issue will know how to get out of it. We have no connection with the issue. They know how to resolve the issue. They opened the file. Let them close it. I believe that the Islamic Republic, Syria, and the Islamic groups in this country want to end this issue. It will end if they decide to end it—if the United States continues to exert pressure to settle this question.

[Correspondent] What is important is that you believe that the developments of the hostage issue include the release of some non-Lebanese detainees and that the issue of these non-Lebanese individuals is directly connected with the hostage issue.

[Al-Musawi] It is supposed to be like that. I do not know how the dialogue between the brothers in the Islamic groups who are concerned with the hostage issue and detainees and the other side is proceeding. But it is natural that the demands of the Islamic groups concerned with this issue will include the release of the Iranian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian detainees. This is certain because there can be no distinction between innocent persons, human beings, and resistance fighters on the basis of their nationality.

[Correspondent] In following the developments of this issue, we can see something that can be considered an Israeli compliance with the kidnappers' demands, as shown by the release of some detainees. According to the information you have, was U.S. pressure responsible for this compliance? Or were some of Israel's demands met?

[Al-Musawi] None of the Israeli demands were met. How were such demands met?

[Correspondent] I mean according to information...

[Al-Musawi, interrupting] They obtained nothing. They wished to go down on their knees so they said they were doing it because they had received certain information. What information did they receive? Nothing. The enemy was forced to submit. He submitted. I do not believe they obtained anything. I mean when it was said that so-and-so had become a corpse, was this a reassurance? Sometimes people do not pay proper attention to certain news and certain developments because they are preoccupied with their own affairs. They do not carefully watch developments and statements. A Zionist official says: After we received reassurances about our soldiers, we released some detainees. What reassurances? It is as if I went to reassure a person by telling him his son or his brother is dead. Does this mean I have reassured him, by offering him a corpse? It is a question of seeing who holds out longer when you and your enemy are biting each other's fingers. If the Arabs and the Muslims in general learn part of a lesson—not even a full lesson, not a 50-minute class but a 10-minute class—from the Islamic fighters and mujahidin in the south, in Palestine, or any other Islamic land, and if only the reactionary Arab rulers and governments learn a little about some of these mujahidin, read a news report about them, or watch a videotape of them, then they would learn not to shout in pain immediately after the enemy bites their finger and ask him to release it. It is a question of biting each other's fingers.

It has been like that throughout history between you and your enemy. I mean if you hold out three seconds longer, the enemy will shout out in pain before you. It requires a little patience. The Americans and the Israelis have certainly exerted all possible pressures, via some Lebanese and some Arabs, and have used economic pressure, the media, psychological warfare, Israeli overflights, and fighting on the ground to end the hostage issue without paying a price. They wanted their own detainees to be released and the Muslims and other patriots to remain in prison. That was their policy, to end the issue without paying a price.

The wise and strong position adopted by all the parties concerned with the issue—the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, the Islamic groups or the fundamentalists in general, and the honest people—made the United States realize that the hostages cannot be released for nothing. The Americans knew that they should pressure the Israelis to release the detainees and this is what happened. Yesterday we were reading verses from the Koran in the home of one of our martyrs, whose body arrived. We offered condolences to the father of the martyr. He gave a genuine smile. He asked me to congratulate him for being able to force America and Israel to fulfill our demands, hand over the bodies of our martyrs, and do what we want. He asked me to congratulate him because his son made this possible and enabled us to become capable and proud. I listened to him to learn a lesson. I might talk for three and a half hours, but my talk might be useless. But one sentence from the father of a martyr like this man was something worth listening to. He sounded like one speaking from paradise rather than the earth. He asked me to congratulate him. He was aware that Israel and the United States were forced to do that. All the people of falsehood will be forced to fulfill our demands when we know how to defend our rights. We should not cry or quickly capitulate.

[Correspondent] Let us return to the relatives of the detainees, who are waiting for their sons. Can you reassure them about their fate according to the information available to you? Will their sons be released soon?

[Al-Musawi] The timing—whether after one day, one week, one month, or more or less, depends on more than one party. It depends on the parties concerned with this issue—the Americans, the Jews, and the Islamic groups linked with the hostages in Lebanon. It is these parties who will decide the timing. What we want to emphasize is that the Islamic front will not hesitate to do anything it can to bring about the release of all our detained brothers and sons in the enemy's prisons as quickly as possible. Anyone who fails to do whatever possible for the brother detainees, who made every sacrifice for our dignity, religion, land, water, sanctities, and honor, would be dishonest and unfaithful. The values of faithfulness and religion command us to do whatever possible for those who sacrificed for us. I believe the Islamic groups concerned with the issue and who have dealings with the Islamic Republic of Iran are definitely concerned about the release of all mujahidin and honest resistance members. I would like to emphasize once again that we mean not only the Lebanese and the Shiites, because the resistance is humanitarian, Islamic, and patriotic. We know there are nationalist people among the detainees, but we know that their motives were primarily religious. They know that this enemy is the enemy of God and of prophets and that they are fighting from this premise, although they might move acting under a political or party affiliation.

As I told some reporters yesterday, brother struggler His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, may God Almighty bless him and all the mujahidin, is undoubtedly in the vanguard of those who we want to come back with maximum speed. But even the youngest among the mujahidin and the resistance men, we owe him to spare no efforts in seeking his release, and this applies to the others as well. On more than one occasion I mentioned Soha Bisharah, the girl who attempted to assassinate South Lebanese Army Commander Antoine Lahd. We also owe her that we should seek her release, because she participated in the battle, the battle of good versus evil.

[Correspondent] The media is speaking of the imminent release of a number of Western hostages within a day or two in what is considered as a move in return for the Israeli step. What is your information on this subject?

[Al-Musawi] As I stated earlier, the question of determining the time—one or two days or one week, as some media organs have quoted me as saying [changes thought] Once before REUTER quoted me as saying that an Israeli pilot is still alive. The REUTER correspondent asked me and I said to him that we had no information or word that he is dead. What we heard was that he was in the hands of a certain group and then he was moved into the hands of others. Some Islamic organizations, regrettably, criticized each other over this pilot. As for the question of whether he is alive or dead, I did not say that he is alive. I can only know if he is alive if he is with me or in a place that I know. What I said is that he is not with the brother Iranians and that he is supposed to be in Lebanon—where else would he go—in the hands of an Islamic or other party. Regarding the hostages' release, the media yesterday said within one week. I did not say that. Sometimes one finds that it is necessary to catch his statement or answer to correct it, because some media write what they want, not what you say. Anyhow, perhaps an American, British, or other hostage—it is not known—will be released within one week or more. What I believe is that this U.S. submission—let it be well understood and clear that it is submission and that America and Israel complied with what is right and with the positions of the oppressed and the unjustly treated people who know how to defend their rights—will certainly lead to a continuation of the solution. Now we hear the statements by the Islamic groups, whether the Islamic Jihad or the Revolutionary Justice Organization. They say our demands are the release of the detainees. They are not asking for anything else; the release of detainees held in the enemy's and in Europe's prisons, and of all nationalities without discrimination among nationalities, identities, or other titles. All the resistance men and all the mujahidin must be freed. Now 51 persons and nine blessed bodies were released. We expect there will be a new gesture on the part of the Islamic groups, unless the Americans—and this is what we deduced from the statement of one of the parties concerned—had pledged to seek the release of a batch of detainees among whom we understood, or rather deduced, that brother mujahid His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-karim 'Ubayd would be included. If the Islamic groups believe that America had failed to honor that commitment, which is in the nature of America because it has no ethics or values, then the issue could be delayed, that is in case there were a violation of the commitment. We do not know the details of the agreements or the dialogue. Thus, a new group, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, would need to be released, if that was the condition to which America had committed itself. If this is not the case, it is expected that an American or a

Briton—one of the hostages—will be freed at some time or another. As to when this will happen, it is not known.

Certain information media reported that some hostages may be released today or tomorrow. I do not know, maybe yes, maybe no. No one can give the time except those who can decide this.

[Correspondent] The Islamic Jihad Organization said that the release of the Lebanese detainees and the handing over of the bodies of nine people are not sufficient, according to the statement it released. Does it seem that this statement will have a negative effect on the issue?

[Al-Musawi] This is what we maintain. When they say that this is an insufficient step, it means that the Americans were committed to doing something, but they did not. This might have been the issue of his eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd or something else. This issue might complicate the issue and the captors may not release other hostages unless another commitment is made and someone, maybe Perez de Cuellar, plays a certain role and pledges to do this or that or say that they lied and now they will keep their promise. Maybe after such a commitment has been made, things will become easier.

[Correspondent] Regarding Perez de Cuellar' visit to Tehran, do you see any link between this visit and the hostage issue? How do you asses the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the hostage issue?

[Al-Musawi] Perez de Cuellar is not American, he comes from South America. This man is helpless. We watched what he was doing during the Gulf war, and it turned out that he was implementing U.S. orders and instructions. The UN people's task is to implement America's wishes. Nonetheless, he enjoys a neutral status as a UN official chosen by America to do something about this issue. The Islamic parties accepted him and the Islamic Republic of Iran received him, but not only for the sake of the hostage issue, which might be on the agenda; his visit to Iran also involved Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war, the Afghanistan issue and the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in this issue, Gulf security, and the hostage issue might be the fourth or one of the topics on the agenda. We may ask why Perez de Cuellar's agenda involves the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran has relations of ethics, values, and religion with all Muslims. Imam Khomeyni is Vali-Ye Faqih [Supreme Jurisconsult] and the wise and genuine monotheist Muslims linked themselves with Imam Khomeyni's Islamic republic on the basis that there was an ulema Faqih in Tehran worthy of being Vali-Ye Amr Ol-Moslemin [guardian of the muslim cause] in view of his stand, life, and honest behavior. His successor now is His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God Almighty preserve him. He enjoys the same status as Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The Islamic groups in Lebanon concerned with the hostage issue have this kind of link with the Islamic Republic of Iran. But this should not be understood as an organizational matter; namely, that the decision is organizational and made in Tehran and implemented in Lebanon. The link is religious and ethical and might be stronger than an organizational link.

But when the Islamic leadership expresses a view or a wish, the Islamic groups in Lebanon are likely to oblige. Perhaps some of these groups who might be in a difficult situation may not respond. The kidnapping of the French national is evidence of this. The French national was kidnapped after one of the hostages was released. It seems that some groups believed that the Israelis were supposed to release the detainees before they release the hostages.

A certain group followed the Iranian advice and granted its wish regarding this subject and the coordination among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and the other fundamentalists in Lebanon. Not all groups have something to do with the kidnapping or releasing of hostages, but the issue concerns them all as far as the consequences are concerned. We hear remarks, views, and pieces of advice about what is appropriate and inappropriate. All groups were of the opinion that the Islamic groups should take a step, and thus one hostage was released. They released the British hostage, and the American hostage was supposed to be released on the next or third day. Afterward, some of the youths became enraged and decided to kidnap any Westerner they encountered. This turned out to be a French national. This shows that the relationship of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the issue is one of giving advice and views, and the groups in Lebanon can agree or disagree. This is the nature of Iran's relationship with this issue. Perez de Cuellar's visit to Tehran is normal. We now hear that he is authorized by the Americans to deal with this issue. It is the Americans who decide for the other party. We expect that if the Americans are serious about this issue, they should commit themselves and recognize that the others have dignity and that the human rights issue that they raise should apply to them. The Americans should not view them as the Jews do. They should see that the others have dignity and rights and that they are oppressed and targeted. If the U.S. administration understands this, it must recognize what we are talking about and tell the Israelis that there can be no solution until they have released the detainees. This is how the issue of the hostages and detainees can follow a normal course. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran a few days ago. What are your impressions regarding this visit?

[Al-Musawi] We bring from our leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, love, best wishes, and hopes for a victory of our kinsfolk in their resistance against the enemies. Our link with the Islamic Republic of Iran is spiritual. We meet with our legitimate leadership when we meet with the Islamic leadership in Iran. When we meet, we express our views and listen to their instructions and advice. We hope that all the Islamic peoples will have the same relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran so that all Muslims—the righteous nation—will have a unified and strong position in the confrontation against the people of falsehood who are unified in their unrighteousness.

We expect Khonsari's recent visit to Lebanon, his talks with officials, and the Lebanese foreign minister's visit to Iran will improve bilateral relations and serve the resistance and all the oppressed and poor.

[Correspondent] If a Middle East peace conference is convened with Arab agreement, talk about abolishing the Islamic resistance may come up. What would Hizballah's stand be in this case?

[Al-Musawi] The danger for the Islamic resistance exists even before the conference convenes. The United States and others have loyal supporters in Lebanon who are not loyal to their nation and who want the resistance to end. The conference may increase this pressure. The participants may say that they need the resistance operations to stop before they can hold a dialogue. They might question how they can talk at the negotiating table while operations are taking place against Israel. They might request a cessation of operations. Those negotiators who wield influence in Lebanon are aware that it is not in the interest of Lebanon or the nation to stop the resistance operations as long as the enemy occupies our land. I do not think that anything can stop the resistance operations. However bad the circumstances in Lebanon are, they are not as bad as those of our brothers in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi on Hostage Issue, Government

NC1609114391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that the key to solving the hostage issue is pressuring Israel.

During a news conference today, he said that the solution is contingent on releasing all the detainees held in Israeli prisons. Al-Musawi added that, when this happens, there will be no further justification for holding the hostages. His eminence stressed that Israel's recent move was incomplete, because several hostages had been released in the past. Releasing Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd would be the acceptable step, because only then will we be able to tell whose court the ball is in.

His eminence said that the enemy's statements aim to improve the Zionist soldiers' morale, and he noted that the Hizballah delegation's visit to Iran focused on discussing the principal issues, most importantly the issue of the Lebanese detainees being held in Israeli prisons.

His eminence said that the Zionist enemy is not a simple enemy, but, rather, is very complex. He added that the enemy discusses every issue in minute detail and that the Zionist enemy always resorts to discussing issues from an ideological point of view. He pointed out that Israel is always the aggressor.

His eminence indicated his displeasure that the word hostages has been used in referring to the Zionist soldiers as well as the detained strugglers in the enemy prisons. He pointed out the difference between the two, explaining that those held in Israel's prisons were detained and kidnapped from their homes, as in the cases of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and others, while the Israeli prisoners were detained on our land during confrontations. He said that the hostage issue emerged as a reaction to the repeated U.S. and Israeli attacks.

To a question about the government's status, His Eminence al- Musawi declared Hizballah's refusal to participate in this government. He said that this government is an improper government, and asked how the men who drowned the country with blood could save it. He welcomed the opposition movement.

Al-Musawi Says Iranian Hostages 'Alive'

NC1609124891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has asserted that the key to resolving the hostage issue is for the United States to put pressure on Israel or for Israel to make a concession. He added that otherwise, there will be no solution. [passage omitted]

On the fate of the Israeli hostages, al-Musawi said that the issue is very critical and that every piece of information has its price, but that price is not to be paid through the media. Al- Musawi said that recent reports available to Hizballah have indicated that the Iranian hostages are still alive. Their case thus takes priority when it comes to closing the file on the hostages.

When asked about the expected release of British hostage Jack Mann, al-Musawi said that this question should be addressed to the kidnappers.

UK Hostage-Release Team Comes to Cyprus

NC1609192091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] According to press reports, a British team left for Cyprus today amid expectations that one of the two British hostages in Lebanon will be released. The team includes Foreign Office representatives, physicians, security personnel, and a representative of the Anglican Church, which employs Terry Waite.

Foreign Minister on South, Rebuilding Fund

PM1609110191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the present international justifications for not putting pressure on Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] Israel used to turn to false pretexts, including the nonexistence of a Lebanese government or Army capable of extending its influence over Lebanese territory. It continued to refuse to implement Resolution 425 under these pretexts.

But today, now that the Lebanese Government has proved its ability to control matters and lead the country and the Lebanese Army has proved its ability to deploy effectively on over 80 percent of Lebanese territory and has disarmed the militias with the least possible losses, there is no justification for not implementing Resolution 425. And in this regard I cite U.S. pressures during the Gulf crisis to implement international legitimacy and its employment of all its capabilities to implement the international resolutions. And there is not a single justification for not taking the same position on Lebanon, unless the United States has two criteria and two scales that govern its moves and positions.

And now that Israel's pretexts have been eliminated, we are engaging in the political and diplomatic battle through our contacts with the international parties in order to force Israel to implement Resolution 425, which is clear, is separate from the Middle East conflict, and does not require any interpretation. So we feel that the United States has greater energies and more effective capabilities to implement the resolution. We feel that Israel should certainly not be allowed to remain above international law and resolutions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it possible to explain the present situation in the al-Biqa' valley area?

[Buwayz] The al-Biqa' valley area constitutes a natural security belt around Damascus and has always been a route for invasions and aggression against Syria and Lebanon, which is why the al-Ta'if agreement ruled out the Syrian Army's withdrawal from that area and proposed that the Syrian forces remain stationed there—in accordance with agreements between it and the Lebanese state, and also because of the Israeli occupation of part of the western al-Biqa', in direct confrontation with the Syrian forces, which have some antiaircraft weapons for defense against any Israeli infiltration across that gap.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But Israel insists that the Syrian forces withdraw before it does.

[Buwayz] There is no comparison between the Syrian presence and the Israeli presence. The Syrian forces are not occupying or hostile forces, because the joint Arab defense pact allowed that presence, which took place as a result of the Israeli occupation, not vice versa.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] And why does Lebanon refuse to participate in the proposed peace conference?

[Buwayz] Lebanon is not against participation in the peace conference. There is a decision by the Lebanese parliament accepting participation in the conference, on the grounds that Lebanon is concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian people's cause. This is with the assertion that Resolution 425 concerning southern Lebanon is for immediate implementation, not negotiation. And Lebanon's participation in the peace conference does not represent abandonment of Resolution 425 or linkage between the Lebanese question and other regional issues.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] That means that Lebanon has two issues in dispute with Israel: a general issue and a specific issue.

[Buwayz] Yes, we have our own issue which concerns the occupation of southern Lebanon, and the implementation of Resolution 425 ends the issue. And there is a general issue which concerns the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, and resolving that issue centers on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. Resolving the southern Lebanon issue alone would place us in a state of temporary truce with Israel.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] So why do Baker's tours of the region include Lebanon if there is no inclination to involve Lebanon in the peace conference?

[Buwayz] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asked to meet with me several times. I have met him twice: once in Damascus and another time in Cairo. And messages are exchanged between us on the Middle East. Baker officially requested that Lebanon join the peace conference. We made it a condition that we have U.S. assurances not to merge the issue of southern Lebanon with the region's other issues.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did Lebanon call for holding a five-way conference among the frontline states?

[Buwayz] Lebanon encourages and supports the convening of such a five-way conference (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO) in order to consolidate solidarity and coordinate positions in the face of the Israeli occupation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the latest developments in Lebanese-Palestinian relations, and will you meet with PLO Political department Head Faruq Qaddumi on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings?

[Buwayz] Lebanese-Palestinian relations are currently passing through a calm phase after the extension of the state's authority over all Lebanese territory in most parts of the South. And there is no longer a dispute between us, so there is nothing in the way of developing these relations in the direction that is a part of Arab solidarity, and I have no objection to meeting with Qaddumi anywhere.

And it must be pointed out that the Lebanese Government drew up a timetable for stripping both Lebanese and non-Lebanese of their heavy and medium weapons, and this has actually taken place. And the Lebanese Army is currently storming positions to seize some light weapons. This is in the knowledge that these do not pose a military threat to Lebanon.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Has Lebanon obtained Egyptian aid to enable it to rebuild its Army?

[Buwayz] Egyptian-Lebanese relations are deep-rooted and of long standing. Lebanon noted through the numerous stages of the civil war the interest shown in the Lebanese issue by Egypt and President Mubarak. And we know well that, if its resources were greater, Egypt would support us in rebuilding Lebanese institutions, including the Army. However, we are hoping for a great deal from the Egyptian role at the political level to implement Resolution 425 and liberate Lebanese territory. President Mubarak has raised this subject on many occasions with the U.S. side and the major states.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] When will the measures to implement the establishment of the international fund for the rebuilding of Lebanon begin?

[Buwayz] Lebanon was among the first states to supported our Arab brothers. And it was eager to support any afflicted states. Today Lebanon has emerged shattered from its civil war and it is asking the Arabs to adhere to the 1990 Baghdad summit resolutions, which endorsed the establishment of an Arab fund for the rebuilding of Lebanon. And all we need is the minimum restoration of Lebanon's infrastructure. And we have actually obtained promises to implement that decision during the Arab League Council meeting or during the UN session. We were assured of this by the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with following up the situation in Lebanon.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the scale of the losses inflicted on Lebanon as a result of the Gulf crisis?

[Buwayz] Lebanon was harmed by the Gulf war more than any other state. This is because 500,000 Lebanese people used to transfer huge sums of money to Lebanon, investing them in development projects. Lebanon's income dropped after the war to less than 20 percent of what it was before 2 August [1990].

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There have been reports about an imminent visit to Cairo by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. What truth is there in these reports?

[Buwayz] I can say that the visit has been decided and contacts are being made to set a date for it.

New Iraqi Leaders Form 'Secret Organization'

JN1709062191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus—Iraqi opposition thinker and politician Hasan al-'Alawi has said that the changes made by the president of the Iraqi regime do not entail anything new; they are within the context of continuous liquidation of personalities and generations in the interest of those coming from the secret organization that was established in the early sixties, and which still exists. In an interview with Syrian Television last night, al-'Alawi said: The ruler of Iraq excluded, in the new formation, prominent politicians and qualified persons in social and cultural positions.

Al-'Alawi said: The ruler of Iraq used only bearers of [gun] silencers, abandoning thinkers, and removing the intellectuals from the new leadership. This is an option that has provoked the popular will. Only one who is in a dilemma resorts to this option, al-'Alawi said.

Commentary Views Baker Visit, Bush Policy

JN1609141991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The loan guarantees sought from the United States by Israel and opposed [as heard] by President Bush are beginning to assume new dimensions both in the U.S. and Israeli arenas, threatening to throw a monkey wrench into the works of the peace process, and to cause an indefinite postponement of the proposed peace conference. As President Bush tries to stand up for the national U.S. decisionmaking and his constitutional right to shape his country's foreign policy—unshackled by the Israeli-controlled Zionist lobby in the American Congress—Israel tries to mobilize the Zionist lobby in American society and the House of Representatives and Senate as if to make the point that as far as U.S. Middle East policies are concerned—both in war and in peace—the foreign policy of the United States is made in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, Israeli spokesmen and officials have been asserting that there will be no letup in settlement activity in the occupied Arab lands, viewed by Washington as a stumbling block to the peace-making efforts. They have also been hinting at a possible suspension of the peace conference, given the present state of relations between Israel and the United States. It is against such a backdrop of Zionist nervousness that Secretary Baker, who begins his Middle East tour in Israel today, will be tying up loose ends and seeking to set a date for the peace conference proposed for October 1991 during the Moscow summit between Bush and Gorbachev. Without speculating on the outcome Baker's seventh and final Middle East swing might yield, the skies over Baker's first stop seems to be clouded over. The Israelis have never been used to the Americans balking at any request—as long as it suited Zionist interests—they have submitted to Washington, even if it happened to run counter to vital U.S. interests. Using all potential leverage in Washington, Israel will grope for all possible bones of contention with the United States, with a view toward exacting a heavy price. We are aware that as the Americans are exerting themselves to bring peace to the Middle East, they are taking into account the stands of all the parties involved. We must say that Israel had best not pin any hopes on us giving it any rewards by way of appeasement or propitiation. Nor is there any scope for a shift in our position so as to help dispel the clouds in the overcast Israeli skies; Washington knows as much and knows that we are oriented toward peace and that we are going to the peace conference ready to contribute to the requirements of peace, without conceding our rights or land. This is to put the record straight and make it clear that we are not given to the kind of cheating and bargaining typical of Israel.

'Intense' Baker-Israeli Confrontation Expected

JN1609072791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Differences With Israel Are Not Bilateral," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is difficult at the current stage to talk about the results of the acute U.S.-Israeli differences over financial loans and guarantees that Israel insists on obtaining in advance. These differences witnessed mutual escalation from the beginning, until they climaxed on the part of the United States when President Bush declared that his refusal to yield to the Zionist lobby, and on the part of Israel when its government, on the eve of Secretary Baker's arrival in the occupied land to begin his seventh tour of the region, reiterated its demand on guarantees. Thus, today's confrontation between Baker and the Israeli Government will be intense and decisive amid inflexible stands and each side's insistence on its viewpoint. Here, one has to wonder what effect this will have on the peace efforts and attempts to overcome obstacles in the way of convening of an international conference.

AL-BA'TH continues: Since the launching of the Middle East peace process, it was clear that Israel opposed the whole idea. Thus, it did all it could and continues to do all it can to circumvent regional and international efforts to establish a comprehensive peace. These efforts, one way or another, developed around international legitimacy and stemmed from the need to abide by UN resolutions. Naturally, he who refuses to abide by international legitimacy and tries to circumvent the resolutions of the highest forum representing the international community must be anti-peace and an enemy to all peoples seeking their rights. Hence, U.S.-Israeli differences must not be viewed from a limited perspective nor as merely a bilateral issue. The issue is much more than that, especially since the American public, which used to pay the highest percentage of taxes to the Israeli treasury while unaware of the influence of the Zionist lobby, has now begun to realize numerous facts, which, in the first place, affect their daily interests.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The escalating differences will soon take a larger scope to affect peace efforts. If the American people's interests defeat the extortion of the Zionist lobby, the peace process will be greatly boosted and Israel will be isolated as a constant antagonist to justice and truth.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: In his previous tours of the region, and as soon as he arrived in occupied Palestine, U.S. Secretary of State Baker was faced with the establishment and expansion of settlements. However, on the visit he begins today, Baker will not only be faced with a new settlement or expansion, but with a serious settlement scheme that is aimed at settling 1 million Jewish immigrants. This scheme moves in two directions. First, it aims at Jerusalem in order to surround it with 15,000 housing units, and this is what the enemy Council of Ministers approved yesterday. Second, its seeks to establish 19,000 housing units in the West Bank cities and villages. As acknowledged by the Israelis themselves, as part of this scheme, 4,200 housing units will be established in November.

TISHRIN adds: Baker will also be faced with a fervent and hysterical atmosphere against the U.S. Administration and against President Bush in particular. This atmosphere began to develop on the eve of Baker's visit to occupied Palestine. Israeli Minister Ze'evi, who is very close to Shamir, accused Bush of being anti-Israeli and a liar. At the same time, insisting on defying and blackmailing the U.S. Administration, Shamir instructed the Zionist lobby and the pro-Israel influential quarters in the Congress to continue to attack Bush and to escalate the campaign against him because of his decision to hold up the debate on the settlement loans and his threat to use his veto power if the Congress ignores his request to postpone this issue. Through some of its officials, Israel threatened not to go to a peace conference if the United States does not meet its demands and if the Bush administration does not yield to its conditions and dictates.

Concluding its comment, the newspaper asks: How long will all this Israeli defiance continue? Is it not high time this defiance is stopped? This defiance reveals that Israel antagonizes whoever declares an objective stand, or rather, is not blindly biased toward its policy and designs. Israel wants to hear nothing but commendation and extra care for its security and safety and for its aggressive, expansionist, racist, and terrorist trends.

Radio Views Peace Process, Sets Expectations

JN1509152991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] As days pass, the date specified by the U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow to convene the Middle East peace conference approaches. The intentions and hopes, which the world pins on this rare opportunity, also approach the real test, where those who desire peace become known, where the masks fall off the faces of those who are against peace, and where the world finds itself face to face with the firm facts which, at some time in the past, were meant to be buried and pushed into the pits of oblivion.

Because we believe the world today seems serious about achieving peace in this region and reaching a just and comprehensive solution, we can stress that the major world powers and the legitimate world organizations concerned with the peace conference will not find any problem or obstacle on our part preventing the sun of peace from rising. In all phases of the conflict with Israel, we did not search for more than what is rightfully ours, nor did we seek more than the justice that would return the land and save us from injustice.

When we decided to respond positively to the international efforts seeking to achieve peace and a solution, we understood that our decision stands on firm ground as long as the basis for the solution is the international resolutions and the famous texts of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are supported by the entire world. The first fundamental truth in those two resolutions stipulate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, which Israel controlled by the force of arms in the Arab-Zionist wars. In the mind of any fair person, withdrawal from these territories does not need many explanations and is not subject to interpretation, amendment, or ambiguity. Israel, however, and according to statements made every now and then by senior officials, seeks to drown those texts in a sea of ambiguity out of a desire to hold on to some of the territories if it fails to hold to all of them. Israel's imagination even drives it to positions in which the Arabs seem to be driven out of this peace opportunity, losing in it what they have not lost in war, losing our will and power, and making us unable to control our own destiny and build the future we desire.

Not long ago, leader al-Asad had announced here in Damascus that we do not have any land to put at Israel's disposal in order to take from them what it wishes, whenever it wishes. This meant that we will not allow Israel any of our will or power. Our will belongs to us alone and to the generations to come, and our power is the fence around that will which we shall never abandon under any circumstances.

If the concept of peace dictates that weapons be reduced to make the voice of threats retreat and the voice of security and peace advance, this responsibility cannot be shouldered alone by a single party as long as the weapon of power is a threat to peace, whether owned by this or that party. As much as we adhere to the Golan, Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, we also adhere to our will and ability to protect that will against treachery and aggression.

Between the application of the just international texts in any conflict and twisting and exposing them to bargaining and extortion is a large distance, which we do not think we can deny, nor can the world ask us to walk on its thorny sands because, and according to all concepts, this may lead to anything but peace.

Israel Practices 'Extortion' Against U.S.

JN1409131191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Under the headline "Prerequisites for Success to the International Conference," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes: All signs indicate that Israel is not interested in peace or the international efforts exerted for its sake, and that it does all it can to undermine the international conference, scheduled to convene next month, or, at least, to postpone it if its attempts to cancel the conference fail. The Israeli rejection of the principle of land for peace—a principle chosen as a suitable one to launch the peace process—has constituted one of these signs since the beginning of the U.S. and international effort to find a solution. Other signs are represented by the impossible conditions which Israel has increasingly begun to make concerning the topics of the international conference and its role in applying international legitimacy, and also by its adoption of a policy of open extortion against the U.S. Administration, and by insisting on the policy of intensive immigration and settlement.

AL-THAWRAH adds: To continue with this anti-peace approach, Israel applies a policy of open extortion with the United States of America and all states that support the peace efforts. At times, Israel asks for more aid from the U.S. Administration. At times, it asks for security guarantees with the aim of continuing its occupation of the Arab territories. And, at times, it asks for financial guarantees for loans amounting to tens of billions [currency not specified] to expedite the plans of intensive immigration and settlement.

The paper concludes by saying: The purpose behind convening the conference loses its substance when Israel continues to practice the policy of extortion and intensifying immigration and settlement activities. Therefore, the conference's success hinges on confronting the Zionist policy which challenges the international efforts. Unless the strongest pressures are applied against Israel to force it to submit to international legitimacy and abandon its anti-peace approach, the chances for achieving peace and convening the conference, and enabling it to fulfill its tasks within these efforts, may be lost because of the stubborn Zionist policy, which is based on a tendency toward expansion and aggression.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Attends Council of Ministers Session

LD1309181691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Prime Minister's Press Office reports to BAKHTAR that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, attended a general extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers today, chaired by esteemed Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar. The president informed the Afghan Government of the development concerning the process of accelerating a political solution of the Afghan issue and the provisions of the joint statement of the Soviet Union and the United States on cutting off arms deliveries to the sides involved in the Afghan issue.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan then spoke about the details of the mechanism to cut off arms deliveries from all sources to all the sides involved in the Afghan issue. He described the implementation of this matter as an important and valuable step toward ensuring peace and ending war in Afghanistan. The esteemed president stated that the coordination of the viewpoints and methods of approach of Afghanistan and the world community toward the political solution of the Afghan issue, especially taking into account the foreign aspects of the issue, on the one hand the common view and understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, and on the other the agreement of all the foreign parties concerned on a unique formula and mechanism for a political solution, guarantees the achievement of peace in our long-suffering country. Having expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the all-around efforts of the Afghan Government, which have been carried out under difficult conditions, President Najibollah explained the future pressing and important duties of the Afghan Government and wished the prime minister and ministers success at this historic and sensitive moment.

Esteemed Prime Minister Khaliqyar expressed his appreciation and that of the members of the government for the participation of esteemed Najibollah in the Council of Ministers session and for the information given to the government on the new development in the political solution Afghan issue and the joint statement of the Soviet Union and the United States.

On behalf of the members of the Afghan Government, esteemed Khaliqyar welcomed the new development in the political solution of the Afghan issue and expressed his full readiness for the peaceful solution of Afghan problem and the implementation of the joint statement of the Soviet Union and the United States. He added that the government responds with realism and responsibility to the national and international events and developments and carries out its tasks with a high patriotic spirit toward the realization of peace. At this sensitive historic moment it understands its responsibilities before the homeland, people, you, esteemed president, and Almighty God in the cause of ensuring peace. It will use all means to ensure peace.

Esteemed Khaliqyar said that the government has always benefited from the constructive guidance of his excellency the president of Afghanistan in fulfiling its duty and serving the people of Afghanistan. This constant attention has not only been appreciated by us but will be a great encouragement for us in carrying out important national and patriotic duties to ensure peace.

Esteemed Khaliqyar hoped for the help of Almighty God and great success in serving the people and the homeland.

Resistance Leaders on U.S.-Soviet Statement

BK1409131791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 14 (AFP)—Resistance leaders, believing that Moscow's withdrawal of military aid to the Kabul regime would bolster their struggle to oust President Najibollah, rejected Saturday an immediate ceasefire in Afghanistan.

A ceasefire is out of question in view of Najibollah's imminent fall from power, several leaders said in separate statements, adding that the guerrillas had rejected similar pleas in the past.

Guerrilla commanders and party leaders, however, felt relieved that the Soviets had finally agreed to stop military supplies to the regime they had installed in the wake of the Red Army's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin announced Friday that the two countries had decided to cut off arms supplies to the rival sides in the Afghan conflict and stressed that a cessation of hostilities was necessary for a political settlement of the problem.

The aid cut was to come into force from Januray 1, 1992.

The freeze will not have much effect on the guerrillas' military activity as U.S. aid to the mojahedin resistance was already on the decline, said Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the fundamentalist Jamiat-e Eslami.

Rabbani, who is also foreign minister in the rebels' government- in-exile, claimed in a statement that the resistance had received very little aid from the United States in the past three years, while an air bridge had continued between Kabul and Moscow.

"If Moscow genuinely plugged the arms flow, it will be a positive development," he said, but if they continue to provide covert aid to Kabul, "it will be disasterous because bloodshed will continue."

He hoped the Soviet Union would have learnt that the Afghan problem was the result of its "support to a bunch of criminals."

The Soviets ended their nine-year military occupation of Afghanistan in 1989 but continued to stockpile the long range surface-to-surface Scud missiles, artillery pieces and the latest jets in the Asian mountain state, several leaders said.

However, the resistance was optimistic that the end of communist backing could have far reaching consequences for Najibollah.

It might split the ruling Watan party, encourage desertions in the army and ultimately weaken the defence of the guerrillas prime target, Kabul, said sources in the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar, whose well-equipped and well-organised faction believes in a mojahedin military victory, is said to be somewhere around Kabul.

Hekmatyar believed Moscow wanted to arm Najibollah to withstand a possible post-winter assault by the mojahedin, the leader was quoted as saying.

Another Hezb-e Eslami faction, led by Yunes Khales, termed the reciprocal U.S. decision as a "typical U.S. betrayal" at a time when the mojahedin were on the verge of establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Khales said it was not Washington but the mojahedin who had "dismantled the communist giant."

Both Khales and Hekmatyar have been boycotting a series of talks in Tehran and Islamabad on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace initiatives.

The May 21 U.N. blueprint calls for the setting up of a neutral interim government through an intra-Afghan dialogue until elections over a maximum period of 18 months.

"We cannot accept a ceasefire as the fire ignited by the communists was still raging in Afghanistan," Khales added.

Almost all resistance leaders have ruled out any role for Najibollah in the interim government or his Watan party's participation in the U.N-sponsored future polls.

"We will agree to Najibollah's participation if Mikhail Gorbachev allows traitors like Gennadiy Yanayev to contest elections in his country," Khales said, referring to the failed Soviet coup leader.

Intra-Afghan Cease-Fire Talks Proposal Viewed

15 Sep Najibollah Speech

LD1509200591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Speech by Afghan President Najibollah for radio and television on 15 September on the joint U.S.-Soviet statement on Afghanistan—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers: You know that recently the Soviet Union and the United States, in accordance with UN Resolutions 43, 44, and 45 and the Geneva Accords, issued a joint statement concerning Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan appreciates this responsible action by the two great world powers and the guarantors of the Geneva Accords, and thus their support for the statement by the UN secretary general dated 21 May 1991. This shows their consideration for the national interests and the will of the absolute majority of the people of Afghanistan, who are demanding the cessation of war and the maintenance of peace in the country. Afghanistan officially welcomed the joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States immediately after it was issued.

For five years we have sincerely followed the path of national reconciliation in pursuance of the tenets that the sacred religion of Islam and the national interests of Afghanistan set before us. We have followed this policy in the political, economic, social, and legislative spheres. As a result of pursuing this policy a new sociopolitical atmosphere and dynamism in the country has been created. Fortunately, the fundamental elements of the policy of national reconciliation, which emanate from the will of our people, are in complete compatability with the new atmosphere in international relations.

Dear compatriots: The Republic of Afghanistan, from the first day of the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, has believed in the principle that a military solution not only lacks prospects, but in no way accords with the national interests of the people of Afghanistan. In line with the wishes of all the people of Afghanistan and the internal situation, which the atmosphere of international relations has provided the possibility of a political and peaceful solution for the country, it is seen that only realistic and flexible approaches and reciprocal concessions can rescue our people and country from the abyss of destruction and annihilation.

The joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States, who have officially recognized the fundamental right of our people to determine their fate without foreign interference, is another effective measure toward arriving at the cessation of hostile activities, a cease-fire, and the maintenance of peace. [Words indistinct] of political forces for the aforementioned statement and the concentration of joint efforts provides the ground for [words indistinct] understanding and an interim period for the free expression of the will of the people of Afghanistan for the creation of a new political and economic structure in Afghanistan.

We appeal to our dear compatriots, members of the parliament, patriotic religious leaders, political and social parties, organizations and personalities, the leaders of the tribes and nationalities, the intellectuals, and all of Afghanistan to express their solidarity to use this historic opportunity that has been created to end war and to take practical steps toward the urgent need of the people of Afghanistan—ensuring peace in the country.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to assess and implement any views, proposals, and initiatives by Afghanistan's personalities in order to seek further grounds to implement the recent joint statement by the United States and the Soviet Union and the statement by the United Nations.

The joint statement by the United States and the Soviet Union has been assessed by the parties concerned. It has been approved by a number of countries, formations, political and social parties, and personalities inside and outside the country. It is natural that the first step to end bloodshed and create favorable conditions for the commencement of national dialogue is a cease-fire.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to declare a cease-fire in all regions of the country. Based on this fact, the governors of the provinces, the commanders of the Armed Forces of the country, and state officials are duty bound from this moment, in understanding and consultation with the political and social personalities and local benevolent religious leaders, to contact the commanders and heads of the groups of the opposite side and take measures toward a practical cease-fire at the level of the villages, sub-districts, districts, and provinces.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to sign contracts with the commanders of the opposite sides on stopping the use of heavy weapons that cause heavy casualties.

We sincerely request from the leaders of the formations and commanders of the other side, as compatriot and coreligious brothers, to give a positive response to this peace-seeking voice, which is the demand of our long-suffering and Muslim people, based on the will of the people of Afghanistan.

It should be said that a cease-fire does not mean that one side surrenders to the other side. It is a means to achieve dialogue that without doubt will be a preface for nationwide peace.

We propose negotiation with the Council of the Commanders inside the country, which is one of the main parties in the political solution for the country, in order to find new ground to end war.

I hope they think over this proposal and become ready to take a practical step.

We also propose that in order to end war and accelerate the process of negotiation, the leaders of the formations and parties stationed in Peshawar and Iran open their offices and representations in Kabul City and provinces with a feeling of security and safety.

I want to request that the former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zaher Shah, and his supporters in Europe and America, and intellectuals abroad, take principled and active steps at this sensitive moment to accelerate the process of a political solution, which is needed by the people of Afghanistan.

Compatriot refugee brothers: The pain and suffering that you have endured during 13 years of living away from the homeland has come close to an end with the help of Almighty God. You, as honorable citizens of your country, should not allow others to take advantage of you as a means to reach their goal. You should struggle to end war and ensure peace as much as you can, so that you can return to the fold of your homeland and your families.

We declare firmly that if a number of the opposition's armed extremist groups take advantage of this situation and continue military pressure and adventurism, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will defend the peaceful life of the people of Afghanistan with bravery and heroism. In that case, the responsibility resulting from the combat activities by such groups will rest on them. The continuation of war at a time when the internal and external grounds are prepared to end it means standing against the will of people of Afghanistan and world public opinion. At a time when the conditions are favorable for creating a mechanism and procedures to form an acceptable political-economic sturcture in the country as a result of inter-Afghani talks and understanding, the issue of keeping power or gaining power—I repeat, the issue of keeping power or gaining power—is not being discussed with anyone. To struggle to gain power at a time when the blood of the Muslim people of Afghanistan is being shed each day will not bring honor to any side. There is no honor greater than to travel on the path that finds peace in Afghanistan by accepting self-sacrifice and by avoiding self-interests or group and party interests. All should prevent further destruction of our country by practical participation.

Dear compatriots: Our understanding of the five-point statement made by the UN secretary general and the joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States is that the realization of the ideas inserted in the aforementioned documents will contribute without doubt to the national unity of Afghans, provided they are coupled with the practical measures by the sides involved. They will ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. We hope that the United Nations, the United States, the Soviet Union, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Organization Conference, and all peaceloving countries of the world will carry out serious and effective efforts to end war and ensure peace in Afghanistan.

We hope that our neighbors, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as Suadi Arabia, as the parties concerned in the solution of the issue of Afghanistan, will cooperate sincerely to implement this joint statement and the statement by the UN secretary general and to fulfill their obligations in practical terms.

We believe that our neighbors, the People's Republic of China and the Indian Republic, can render all-around assistance to the process of helping the people of Afghanistan achieve a political and peaceful solution.

The Republic of Afghanistan has full confidence that the political and peaceful solution of our country's problem and the creation of a stable Afghanistan with independent and territorial integrity will not only not be a threat to the lawful interests of any country in the world and the lawful interests of our neighboring countries, but will prepare the grounds for all the means and reserves to be used toward the development and expansion of mutually beneficial relations by all the neighbors and people of our region.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we assure you that we will cooperate sincerely to implement the statement issued on 21 May 1991 by the UN secretary general and the observation of the joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States. We will continue to further expand and deepen the national reconciliation policy, which represents the urgent need of the people of Afghanistan and conforms with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and the high interests of the country.

Now, when we are on the eve of the sacred birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad, the master of the universe, I have full confidence that the forces, personalities, and armed commanders of the opposite side, by understanding their Islamic, Afghani, national, and patriotic responsibilities, will take practical steps to end war and ensure peace in Afghanistan.

We rely on Almighty God, may He be glorified, that this noble and peaceloving path and peace, God willing, will be ensured soon in our country with the help and participation of the people of Afghanistan. Success comes from God.

Rabbani Rejects Cease-Fire Call

BK1609075891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 16 (AFP)—An important Afghan resistance leader Monday rejected President Najibollah's call for a nationwide ceasefire as a propaganda ploy aimed at gaining legitimicay.

"The Kabul regime is illegal, unconstitutional and Najibollah is a usurper," Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the influential Jamiat Eslami faction of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance said.

Rabbani, who is also acting foreign minister of the resistance government in exile, said the entire Afghan nation wanted peace but not with Najibollah.

There is a "complete consensus" among the guerrilla commanders, resistance leaders and the people in Afghanistan that normalcy could return only after Najibollah's removal from power, he said in an interview with AFP.

The Afghan ruler offered a unilateral truce Sunday in the wake of a U.S.-Soviet agreement to cut arms supplies to warring sides in the 13-year old Afghan conflict. He appealed to his opponents to take "practical steps" for peace in the war torn country.

"How can you accept a ceasefire from a person whose own status is a big controversy," Rabbani said, recalling that Najibollah, a former secret service chief, had succeeded Babrak Karmal who was installed by Moscow in the midst of a Soviet military occupation.

Dialogue Agreed Without Najibollah

BK1609103591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Kabul government has agreed to participate in a dialogue with the mojahedin resistance without President Najibollah, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan said here Monday.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is expected to consider the Kabul move and arrange the dialogue through his special envoy Benon Sevan.

Kabul has indicated that if the dialogue goes ahead, Najibollah will not be there, Khan said.

The development removes a major hurdle to peace in Afghanistan as the mojahedin and their backers, Iran and Pakistan, have rejected any role for the Kabul ruler in the political process.

Resistance Cautiously Reacts to Offer

BK1609113891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Afghan mojahedin could agree to allow members of the Kabul regime or of the ruling Watan party to play a part on an "individual basis" in finding a "global solution" to the Afghan conflict, a spokesman for the resistance movement said here Monday.

M. N. Lafraie, information minister for the Afghan government-in-exile here, added, however, that there was no question at the moment of opening such a dialogue.

Lafraie, a member of the Jamiat-e Eslami, one of seven Sunni Muslim groups of the Pakistan-based resistance movement, were responding to a Pakistan Government statement saying that the Kabul regime would agree to intra-Afghan dialogue which would not include its president, Najibollah.

Mojahedin React to Proposal

BK1609135491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Sept 16 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah has agreed to a U.N.-sponsored intra-Afghan dialogue without him, in a bid to facilitate the start of negotiations on a political settlement, Pakistan said Monday.

"The Kabul regime has conveyed its willingness to participate in an intra-Afghan dialogue without Najibollah," Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan told a press briefing here.

He said the Kabul regime has indicated that if a dialogue goes ahead "Najibollah will not be there."

In initial reactions, some mojahedin leaders based in Pakistan rejected dialogue not only with Najibollah but his party also.

"The mojahedin have clearly indicated that they reject not only Najibollah but also the regime and the party he reperesents," the resistance government's information minister Najibollah Lafraie said.

"But," he added, "individuals in the party or the regime could play some role in an overall solution."

A spokesman for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), a moderate faction among the seven Pakistan-based parties, said "if the Kabul team includes known Khalqis and Parchamis (factions of the ruling Watan party), we cannot sit with them."

"We have to wait for details and see who represents Kabul," said Azim Nassir Zia, adding that "we are at a practical stage now and we should not rush."

A spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami faction led by fundamentalist leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said "the mojahedin will never accept any Watan party man at any level in the talks."

"The Najibollah regime is breathing its last, therefore, it is not only irrelevant but illogical to seek an understanding on the future of Afghanistan with this moribund regime," he said in a statement.

The foreign secretary described as "very useful" Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's recent meeting with U.N. Secretary- General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Tehran.

Iran "favoured" the Kabul regime's move but a mechanism for inter Afghan talks has not been set in motion, the foreign secretary said. [passage omitted]

The foreign secretary did not say when and how the Kabul message came, but sources here said it was conveyed during the Tehran meeting.

The meetings helped in "refining and defining" issues in the five point U.N. proposals, said Khan, who accompanied the president on his five-day visit to Iran.

The Pakistani diplomat cautiously welcomed Friday's agreement between Washington and Moscow to cut arms supply to the warring Afghan sides by January 1, 1992.

"We hope all supplies outlined in the agreement will be stopped and the interim period will not be used to stock up arms," he added.

He said the U.N. secretary-general would arrange a dialogue through his special envoy on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan. Pakistan should guide the Afghans how to proceed "clearly and obviously without Najibollah," he added.

He said Pakistan and Iran have formulated their ideas on "the form and shape" of the interim government. The foreign ministers of the countries will continue talks in New York in the coming days, Khan said.

Asked if Pakistan would undertake to stop shipping supplies through its territory, he said Islamabad hoped that an agreement on the remaining four points in the U.N. plan would be reached by the cut off date.

"Pakistan is not supplying arms and its support to the Afghan resistance is moral and political," he added.

Asked if Pakistan would support a Najibollah's recent call for a ceasefire, he said "a ceasefire is meaningless in the absence of cooperation among the parties" involved in the conflict.

Earlier Monday Borhanoddin Rabbani, acting foreign minister of the resistance provisional government-in-exile, dismissed Najibollah's call for a nationwide ceasefire as a propaganda ploy.

The entire Afghan nation wants peace but not with Najibollah, Rabbani said, adding that the "usurper" must be removed from power.

Further on Hekmatyar Reaction

BK1709101591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Sep 91 p 5

[Text] Peshawar, Sept. 16—The Hekmatyar group of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [HEA] has outrightly rejected the ceasefire announced by Kabul.

A spokesman of the Party said here this afternoon that this has been the consistent policy of the Resistance from the very outset that no ceasefire will be accepted until the regime which it believed was the extension of the Soviet occupation, was toppled. The Resistance will only agree to a ceasefire after a credible interim government, acceptable to all its forces, took over in Kabul. This interim government will be responsible for holding free and fair elections in a stipulated period of six months and in which all the Muslim Afghans could participate. When all arrangements to this effect were enforced, then the question of a ceasefire could arise, the spokesman commented.

According to ANA [AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY], in response to a question that Najib had shown his readiness to introduce a very low-level delegation to the intra-Afghan dialogue, the spokesman said that it would never accept any Watan party man at any level in the talks.

He maintained that the UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar himself had clarified that the intra-Afghan dialogue did not mean the inclusion of Najib or his party men in the talks.

The spokesman categorically denied that the Hekmatyar faction of the HEA was preparing to join hands with President Najib and said that this kite-flying was being done by the enemies of the Resistance.

Meanwhile, the Resistance claimed that it had captured an important military centre of Kabul, ten kilometres east of the city.

Bangladesh

'Massive Support' for Parliamentary Government

[Figures as heard]

BK1609160391 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Complete unofficial results of the referendum on the 12th constitution amendment bill held yesterday have been received. The results show there have been a massive support for parliamentary system of government. Out of 2 crore 19 lakh 19,300 votes polled, 1 crore 83 lakh 42,882 were in favor of yes, while 33 lakh 85,713 for no. The percentage of yes votes is 84.41 and that of no votes is 15.58. The turnout of voters was 35.23 percent. [passage omitted]

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Sep

BK1309020491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, James Edward Harold Herath, arrived in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh. Mr. Herath will be visiting Bangladesh in connection with the coming six round summit to be held in Colombo in November this year. The Sri Lankan foreign minister is likely to hand over a letter of invitation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the six round summit.

Meets President, Foriegn Minister

BK1409161591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, says SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] can play an effective role in promoting cooperative relations and harmony among the countries of the region. The acting president said this when the Sri Lankan foreign minister, J.E. Harold Herath, called on him at Bangabhaban [president house] this morning.

The acting president hoped that the sixth SAARC summit in Colombo in November this year would succeed in promoting the SAARC objective. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed appreciated the rapid development achieved by Sri Lanka in the socioeconomic and educational fields. He said that Sri Lanka having already achieved the literacy rate of 88 percent is poised for greater progress and prosperity. Earlier, during a meeting with Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, the Sri Lankan minister discussed measures to strengthen cooperation among the SAARC countries in the United Nations and other international forums. Officials say the two foreign ministers had wide-ranging talks on matters related to the SAARC as well as bilateral and international issues.

India

Army Deployed in Assam; 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK1509093491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The Army has been deployed in some districts of upper Assam to combat ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities and help the state administration in the maintenance of law and order. Official sources say the Army assistance was sought by the state administration following deterioration in the law and order situation due to ULFA activities. The sources say the Army swung into action in the ULFA strongholds of Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, and Nowgong districts. It raided some ULFA hideouts in Nowgong and captured 12 ULFA militants, some of them with arms and ammunition. Some more ULFA terrorists were arrested from Tinsukia and Jorhat districts.

Deployment Criticized

BK1509162991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] In Assam, about 50 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists have been apprehended after the deployment of the Army in some districts of upper Assam. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Army was deployed at midnight last night after the state administration's request to the center for help in combating ULFA activities and restoring law and order. The spokesman said the Army swung into action in Tinsukia, Golaghat, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Nowgong and North Lakhimpur districts and some areas of the state's border with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Search operations are on. The request for the Army deployment was received from the Assam government soon after the killings of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] engineer, T.S. Raju, and the self-proclaimed convener of the Assam branch of Amnesty International, Bipul Mohanta, by ULFA militants. The state government also said efforts for the release of seven hostages held by ULFA have not succeeded.

The Janata Dal has described the Army deployment as unfortunate. Talking to newsmen in Guwahati, the party general secretary, Mr. Hari Kishore Singh, said negotiations are the only way to resolve the tangle. The former state chief minister and AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] leader, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mohanta, voiced similar sentiments.

The Natun Ahom Gana Parishad has demanded immediate stoppage of Army operations in Assam. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party MPs—Mrs. Bijoya Chakraborty and Mr. David Leter—called for a central initiative for a dialogue with the ULFA. They said the Army deployment would only precipitate the crisis apart from endangering the lives of the hostages held by the ULFA.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, says the Army should not be used frequently to deal with political issues like the ULFA problem. He said in New Delhi that the government should have taken various political parties into confidence before deploying the Army in Assam.

Opposition Protests Deployment

BK1609101691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The government is to make a statement at 1700 [1130] today in the Lok Sabha on the situation in Assam and the deployment of army in the state. The minister of state for home, Mr. M. M. Jacob, said this during Zero Hour in response to strong protests from the entire opposition over not taking the house into confidence on the circumstances leading to army deployment. They were also agitated over the home minister or the prime minister not being present when the house was discussing a very vital issue. Opposition demanded immediate convening of an all-party meeting to find a political solution to the Assam problem. They charged that the large-scale release of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants by the Saikia [Assam chief minister] government and connivance by the police is responsible for the chaotic situation in Assam. In the Rajya Sabha, proceddings were stalled for about 20 minutes immediately after the house assembled this morning. The AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], Natun AGP and other opposition members protested that the deployment of Army in Assam will only aggravate the situation. They demanded a statement on the issue.

The issued rocked the Assam assembly too with the entire Opposition demanding resignation of the Hiteshwar Saikia ministry because of its decision to deploy the Army without taking the house into confidence. They demanded the speaker's ruling on their adjournment motion for suspension of question-hour for discussion on Army deployment. As the speaker disallowed the adjournment motion, the entire opposition, except the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodo Land Legislature Party, staged a walkout. Later making a statement, the chief minister, Mr. Saikia said that the army has been deployed in the state to assist the civil administration. He said it will work according to the guidelines given by the state administration. He said arrangements have been made for direct communication and coordination between the administration and the army. The government has also constituted necessary committees in the state as well as at district levels for the purpose. The chief minister also assured the house that Army service will be utilized for the minimum required time and they will be asked to go back as soon as their assignments are over.

The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has hoped that good sense will prevail on the ULFA to release the seven hostages on humanitarian grounds. He cautioned the extremists that problems cannot be solved on gun point, but through negotiations which the Assam government has already initiated. Mr. Patnaik was making a statement in the state assembly when members unanimously expressed their concern over the kidnapping of innocent person, including one ONGC [Oil and natural Gas Commission] engineer Mr. C.R. Mohanti. He regretted that the ULFA has not given any positive response to the concession declared by the Saikia government.

ULFA's Foreign Links Revealed

BK1609125491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The Assam chief mninister has informed the center of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] links with Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan. Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia in a letter to the union home minister has said that these links have been revealed during interrogation of some arrested ULFA militants and from the documents recovered from them. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that these countries have, however, denied it.

The home minister said that after receiving two wireless messages and the letter from the chief minister for army assistance, he discussed the situation in the state with all members of parliament from Assam individually and collectively. He said it was agreed that the state government's request be accepted and the Army is now providing assistance to civil administration in some districts. The minister said that the center is deeply concerned about the continued detention of some officials, including one IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer and four ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] officials. He hoped that they will be released soon and normalcy restored to enable the withdrawal of Army from the state.

'Disturbed Area'; Operations Extended

BK1609161191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The entire state of Assam has been declared a disturbed area. The army has apprehended more than 50 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists, including 21 hardcore extremists. Three ULFA camps were also raided. This was disclosed by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in the Rajya Sabha today while responding to clarifications by members on the deployment of the Army in Assam.

Earlier, in a statement made in both houses of parliament, Mr. Chavan said the Assam chief minister has informed the Center about ULFA having links with Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan. Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia in his letter to the union home minister said that the links had been revealed during interrogation of some arrested ULFA militants and from the documents recovered from them. Mr. Chavan said these countries have, however, denied it.

The home minister said the Assam chief minister requested for the assistance of the Army as he was left with no other option. Despite all his efforts including the unilateral release of 500 ULFA activists, there was no positive response from ULFA. The home minister said the army will try its level best to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages and it is government's assessment that they will possibly succeed in this effort.

Reacting to an opposition member's suggestion to impose president's rule in Assam in view of the serious law and order situation there, Mr. Chavan said that article 356 will be used only as a last resort. He said there is nothing wrong in the state government seeking the help of the Army in maintaining law and order. He also assured the members that the government will ensure that the army personnel will not do anything which will give them a bad name. On a demand to renew negotiations with ULFA, the home minister said this will depend upon the creation of a proper atmosphere in the state.

Earlier, raising the matter during Zero Hour, Opposition strongly criticized the deployment of the Army and wanted that a political solution be found to the Assam problem. Proceedings in the Rajya Sabha were stalled for nearly 20 minutes and members said the deployment of the Army will further aggravate the situation. In the Lok Sabha, members demanded convening of an all-party meeting on Assam.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the Army has extended its anti-ULFA operations in all the districts of Assam, except Cachar. PTI quoting an Army spokesman reports that Assam's inter-state borders were sealed. The spokesman said the Army, civil administration, and local police are working together and the local people are volunteering information about the movement of ULFA activists. Meanwhile, the Assam government categorically denied today a report that the ULFA had killed three of the seven hostages following the Army deployment. A state government spokesman told PTI that all the hostages, including the four ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] officials, are safe.

Dialogue With ULFA Rejected

BK1709041691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has ruled out any dialogue with the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. Giving clarification in the Rajya Sabha on a statement he made in both the houses on the deployment of the Army in Assam, Mr. Chavan said it is difficult to talk to those who preach secessionism and advocated violence. He said dialogue with the ULFA can begin only after creation of a proper atmosphere in the state. The home minister also discounted the possibility of dismissing the state government and placing it under central rule.

Earlier, in a statement Mr. Chavan said the entire state of Assam has been declared as a disturbed area. The Army, which is now providing assistance to civil authorities in nine districts of the state, has apprehended 51 ULFA activists, including 21 hardcore extremists. Three ULFA camps were also raided.

In a bid to prevent infiltration, the Sikkim government has put the state police on the maximum alert following the detection of some persons allegedly connected with the ULFA at Gangtok recently. The state chief minister, Mr. P.K. Pradhan, told newsmen that he had definite information that some unidentified men having connections with the ULFA in Assam visited the state capital recently.

The All Assam Students' Union, the AASU, has called for withdrawal of the Army deployed in the state and solving the ULFA problem politically. A statement issued by the AASU said that both government and the ULFA should try to undersatnd the present situation and developed mutual trust to solve the problem. This is essential for the release of hostages and detainees held under the terrorist and disruptive activities act.

Opposition Demands Army Withdrawal

BK1709083491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The Assam assembly speaker, Mr. Jigukant Gogoi, today adjourned the house sine die amidst an uproarious scene without transacting any business. The budget session of the assembly was earlier scheduled to continue till Friday. An opposition sponsored no confidence motion against the Saikia Ministry which was slated to be taken up immediately after the question hour today could not be discussed because of the abrupt adjournment. As soon as the house assembled this morning, opposition members stood up and an AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] member started reading out a statement demanding withdrawal of army from the state. The speaker tried to restore order and proceed with the question hour but noisy scene continued and some opposition members even collected in the well of the house. The speaker then announced that he is adjourning the house sine die.

Later, talking to newsmen, the leader of the opposition and the former chief minister, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and also the BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] legislative party members opposed the speaker's decision to adjourn the house sine die three days before the schedule. The chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, however, said that his government was prepared to face the no confidence motion.

Oil, Gas Employees Reject Appeal To End Strike

BK1309161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Government is making every effort to seek the release of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] officials still being held in captivity by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. The minister for petroleum and natural gas, Mr. Shankaranand, told a delegation of ONGC officials in New Delhi that the chief minister of Assam has already agreed to release all TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act] detainees in exchange for seven hostages. The delegation wanted all officers to be withdrawn from Assam till the situation becomes conducive to normal operations.

The issue was also discussed at the Consultative committee Meeting of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas chaired by Mr. Shankaranand. The committee members condemned the killing of the ONGC engineer, Mr. T.S. Raju, and called upon the employees to end their strike.

ONGC employees have rejected the appeal by the petroleum and natural gas minister, Mr. Shankaranand, to call off their strike. At a press conference in New Delhi, the president of the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers of the ONGC said they will continue their strike till the demands for the release of the remaining kidnapped ONGC officials by ULFA was met. He said the government had not come with any concrete action or assurance at the meeting with the minister today.

Daily Loss of 250 Million Rupees

BK1409091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Assam government is ready to release simultaneously the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] extremists in exchange for those held hostage by them. Giving this information in the Lok Sabha today in response to a strong demand by the opposition, the petroleum and natural gas minister, Mr. K.S. Shankaranand, said the chief minister has told him that the exchange has to be simultaneous as the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] official, T.S. Raju, was killed even while negotiations were on. He said during his two-day visit to the state, he gathered the impression that the ONGC officials and workers are in a grip of fear. The situation is very tense. He said on return to New Delhi, he met the employees' representatives whose main demand is to secure the release of four of their other colleagues who are still held hostage by the ULFA militants. They are concerned about the security of the employees working in Assam.

Meanwhile, the strike by the ONGC officials has entered the sixth day today. It is estimated that the strike has caused an average daily loss of 25 crore rupees.

Strike Called Off

BK1509040891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The week-long strike by the employees of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] has been called off. The ONGC employees were on strike in protest against the killing of an ONGC engineer, T.S. Raju, who was kidnapped by the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] in Assam. In a statement, the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers of the ONGC said following the talks with the minister of petroleum and natural gas during the past two days, the strike is being withdrawn from 1800 this evening. The statement says the ONGC employees have taken note of government's concern in freeing the hostages held captive by the ULFA.

According to the association, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the association and the ONGC. As per the memorandum, the possiblity of ensuring all employees working in the eastern region will be examined. The days when the employees were on strike will be regularized by granting them leave. Suitable employment will be to the next of kin of the killed engineer.

Kashmir Militants Release 1 Hostage

BK1509161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants today unconditionally released the director of a private engineering institute of Srinagar, Mr. Vijay Kumar Kaur [last name as heard]. He was kidnapped on the 4th of this month. No headway has however been made relating to seven other persons, including former state minister, Mrs. Khemlata Wakhlu, and her husband who are still held by the militants.

Kashmiri Militants Kill Intelligence Officer

BK1509155691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 15 (AFP)—Kashmiri separatists Sunday gunned down an Indian intelligence officer they had abducted the previous night, a rebel spokesman said here.

The powerful Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said its guerrillas killed Subash Bose of the federal Border Security Force (BSF) after he admitted playing a role in the arrest of 11 militants.

Bose, described as a senior intelligence officer, was seized by JKLF militants on the outskirts of Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

No further details were available, and BSF officials in New Delhi or in this urban hub of the separatist campaign could not be reached for comment.

The JKLF is one of the several Muslim groups waging an independence campaign in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, another rebel group freed the chief of an educational institution here Sunday after keeping him in custody for 12 days, witnesses and officials said.

Members of the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen released Vijay Kumar Razdan, 35 and a Hindu, at a city square in the presence of some 100 students and workers of his Institute for Science and Technology.

Razdan, who was handed over to a Hindu social worker, said his abduction was the result of "a misunderstanding", witnesses said.

Kashmiri militants have frequently used kidnappings to force the government to release their colleagues from prison.

The Hizbullah group this month seized a former Kashmir tourism minister, her husband and a bank manager. Another group is holding an insurance official.

Also Sunday, Indian security forces opened fire at a Muslim congregation here, injuring seven people, witnesses said. No details were available but four women and a three-year-old child were said to be in critical condition.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and harbouring the Kashmir militants. Islamabad denies the charge, while describing the homeland campaign in the state as a struggle for self-determination.

Pakistan holds the northern third of Kashmir, and has fought two wars with India over the area.

Muslim Militants Announce 'Curfew' in Kashmir

BK1309124691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 13 (AFP)—Muslim separatists Friday announced an indefinite "civil curfew" all over India's Kashmir valley to demand the removal of security pickets from major towns.

Four rebel groups made the joint anncement after the weekly afternoon prayers at Dargah Hazratbal, 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from this summer capital of Kashmir state.

The four groups are the Hezb-ul-Mojahedin, considered as one of the strongest of scores of groups fighting for Kashmir's secession, Al Umar, Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen and Hizbullah.

Spokesmen for the militants said the "curfew" would continue until the pickets and bunkers were lifted, and that all business and transport came under its purview barring such essential services as hospitals and electricity.

There was no immediate reaction to the announcement from the Kashmir administration, and people could still be seen moving around in large numbers here on the streets.

However, an official said the real test of the announcement would not be until Saturday.

Muslim guerrillas are waging a bloody campaign for Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, to secede.

Pakistan, which disputes the state's sove
India over it.

Defense Minister on Border Situation, Insurgents

BK1709094491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has expressed confidence that the Army, with the support of the state government will be able to bring ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militancy under control. He said the operation (?now underway to help) the government of Assam is getting required cooperation from the local population. The defense minister was responding to queries from the members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi last evening.

Commenting on the regional security environment, the minister expressed concern at the recent reports from the northeastern region of the training of the insurgent elements in camps across the borders. He said except for certain incidents in the Punch, Kupwara, and Kargil there is no tension along the Indo-Pak border. The minister said the Sino-Indian border continues to remain peaceful.

The activities of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants from across the Tamil Nadu coast are being progressively contained as a result of vigilance of security forces and the strong support of the state authorities.

Assam, 2 States Urged To Act Against Insurgents

BK1209125091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland have been advised to take action to control the activities of certain insurgent groups. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha that the center is extending all possible help to these state governments.

In the Rajya Sabha, several members asked the government to take initiatives for direct negotiations with ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] in Assam. They expressed concern over the indefinite strike by the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] employees and asked the government to take immediate steps to get the hostages released.

Meanwhile, the petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. B. Shankaranand, today visited the ONGC headquarters at Nazira in Assam. He met the ONGC employees and assured them of necessary steps for their protection. The work in the ONGC remained paralyzed for the fourth day following the strike by the employees in protest against the killing of their colleague, Mr. T.S. Raju, by ULFA militants.

Tamil Rebel Leader Asks Militants To Leave

BK1509004891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1738 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 14 (AFP)—Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has ordered fellow Sri Lankan militants to quit India immediately to avoid capture by police probing Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, news reports said Saturday.

The Sri Lankan guerrilla chieftain sent a radio message to members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the southern Indian coastal state of Tamil Nadu four days ago, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The news agency quoted official sources as saying in Tamil Nadu capital's Madras that the message was intercepted by government agencies. No independent confirmation of the report was immediately available.

The sources said Prabhakaran, whose LTTE is fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, had asked his supporters to return home by the sea as Tamil Nadu was now "too hot for their continued presence."

Indian authorities have launched a major crackdown on the LTTE following Gandhi's May 21 assassination at an election meeting in the Tamil Nadu town of Sriperumpudur by a young woman. The woman, suspected to be from the LTTE's suicide squad, detonated an explosive strapped on her while pretending to touch Gandhi's feet, killing the former premier instantly.

Since the assassination, more than a dozen LTTE activists have committed suicide in southern India to avoid arrest, while most of those caught by police are known to be linked to the rebel group.

PTI said the Indian navy had been informed of Prabhakaran's fiat and "a close watch was being kept on the movement of boats and men" along the coast in Tamil Nadu, which is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

Tamil Nadu, home to some 55 million Indian Tamils, has previously been a sanctuary for Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka. The rebels were known to regularly smuggle explosives, fuel and medicines from India.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayaram Jayalalitha Saturday branded the LTTE as an "evil force" and said her three-month-old government will expose to the world the "bloodthirsty character" of Prabhakaran.

PTI also quoted her as saying in a statement in Madras that the support extended to the LTTE by fringe political groups in Tamil Nadu was "regrettable, undesirable and highly condemnable."

The LTTE, which once enjoyed New Delhi's patronage, fought Indian troops despatched to Sri Lanka by Gandhi from October 1987 until March 1990. The group has repeatedly denied killing Gandhi.

Prabhakaran lived in Tamil Nadu from mid-1983 until early 1987.

Bill Passed Canceling Punjab Elections

BK1609162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed a bill seeking cancellation of elections in Punjab amidst a walkout by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Janata Dal members. The Left parties, however, supported the government move but demanded an assurance that an all- party meeting will be convened to evolve a consensus to deal with the Punjab problem.

Replying to the debate, the law and justice minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, said the prime minister will soon convene the meeting which will also decide on the firm dates for holding elections in the state. The minister of state for law and justice, Mr. P.R. Kumaramanglam, said the decision to postpone elections in the state was taken by the chief election commissioner and the government feels the decision was justified. He said elections in the state will be held as soon as the atmosphere improves and sought the cooperation of all political parties for it.

The house also approved the budget for the state for 1991-92 and adopted the relevant appropriation bill. Replying to the debate, the minister of state for finance, Mr. Shantaram Porthuke, said sustained efforts to provide gainful employment to the youth, especially in the border areas, has yielded encouraging results. The state showed an all-round progress in the agriculture and industrial sectors despite disturned conditions.

Earlier, participating in the discussion, the National Front, BJP and SJP [Samajawadi Janata Party] members criticized the Election Commission for postponing the polls at the last minute. The Congress-I members, however, said it is not prudent to hold elections in the prevailing atmosphere. The Left parties called for several steps, including the implementation of the Punjab accord.

Rao Clarifies Germany Visit, Baltic Recognition

BK1309164191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that Germay has assured him that aid to India will not be curtailed despite its added commitment because of unification and developments in Eastern Europe, particularly the Soviet Union. Mr. Narasimha Rao was giving clarifications in the Rajya Sabha on his recent visit to Germany. In a statement made in both houses, he expressed the confidence that his visit will provide a fresh impetus to Indo-German cooperation. He said it is of particular significance that Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed his desire to draw India closer to the new Europe that is emerging. The prime minister said no specific joint venture projects were discussed. But he was also able to convince the German industrialists that the recent structural changes in the Indian economy will not be reversed. They expressed their desire to increase economic ties with India.

Refuting the charge that recognition to Baltic republics was announced in Bonn, Mr. Narasimha Rao said it was in fact officially done in New Delhi. He said it could not be made in Parliament as it was a weekend and the timing of the announcement was very relevant.

Referring to the festival of India in Germany, which was inaugurated during his visit, the prime minister said cultural contacts and interchanges are very important for better understanding between countries and societies.

5th Round of Talks With Pakistan Postponed

BK1309160091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The fifth round of India-Pakistan talks at the foreign secretary level scheduled to be held in Islamabad next week has been postponed. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that fresh dates are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

Finance Minister: Full BCCI Investigation

BK1409155991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The finance minister today assured the Lok Sabha that the government will direct the Reserve Bank of India and the intelligence agencies to conduct full-fledged investigation into the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] issue. He was intervening in the resumed debate on the reported collapse of the BCCI and its misuse of public funds and other nefarious activities in the country. Dr. Manmohan Singh said that he had made a statement in the house based on information available to him. He said he has taken note of all that has been said on the floor of the house about the activities of the BCCI which constituted grave issues of national security. He said neither the government nor he personally has anything to cover up on the issue.

The discussion was on a motion by Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], for setting up a joint parliamentary committee to investigate BCCI affairs. In the debate marked by acrimonious exchanges, opposition members charged the government with not taking stern action against the Bombay branch of the bank. They alleged that large amounts in foreign exchange have been siphoned away by the BCCI in collusion with a public sector bank and some Indian companies. A ruling party member charged the opposition with having a political motive in demanding a joint parliamentary probe.

In the Rajya Sabha, the short-duration discussion on BCCI affairs was marked by heated exchanges between opposition members and those from the ruling party. Initiating the debate, Mr. Chaturanand Mishra, CPI [Communist Party of India], demanded an inquiry by a joint parliamentary committee. A Congress-I member alleged that the BCCI was used to destabilize the Indian corporate sector.

BCCI Investigation Outlined

BK1509050291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Government yesterday categorically told the Lok Sabha that there would be no cover up of the affairs of the infamous Bank of Credit and Commerce International, BCCI, in India. The Reserve Bank has ordered a comprehensive audit into the accounts of its Bombay branch. Rejecting the opposition demand for a probe by a joint parliamentary committee, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said the intelligence agencies will be asked to probe into several security aspects following apprehension expressed by members about it. The finance minister said it might have been a mistake to have allowed BCCI to open a branch in India in 1979 but no malifide intention could be attributed to the then government. He said its operations have been kept under constant watch because of suspicion of its connections with Pakistan, though there was no defnite information. He said the charge that the bank had violated foreign exchange regulations was also not substantiated before the advisory board of the enforcement directorate. The minister regretted that insinuations and allegations have been made in a section of the press against individuals and companies without any factual basis.

Further on Investigation

BK1709052091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Mamohan Singh, has assured the Rajya Sabha that the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] and the intelligence agencies will go into all aspects of the operations of the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] in India. Replying to the discussion on the affairs of the bank, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said that a joint parliamentary committee at this point is unwarranted. He said that the RBI has been directed to conduct a special audit of the affairs of the BCCI. The preliminary investigations show that the charges of large scale financial irregularities of the Bombay branch are false. He said the Bombay branch was functioning on sound grounds and the interest of depositors are safe. The government will use all powers to get justice to the Indian depositors in the branches outside the country. He refuted the charge that he has in any way used his influence to cover the workings of the bank.

Participating in the resumed discussion on the subject, members were divided on the issue of an inquiry by a joint parliamentary committee into the BCCI operations. Many members expressed concern that the affairs of the bank have endangered the security of the country and the bank is allegedly involved in funding Pakistan's nuclear program. Some members alleged that that the bank was used to bribe Indian nationals and siphon funds out of India. Some other members, however, said the charges were false and formed part of an ongoing corporate fraud.

Lok Sabha Approves Finance Bill, 1991-92 Budget

BK1409125291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the finance bill, putting its seal of approval on the union budget for 1991-92 amid a walkout by opposition parties expressing their disappointment at government policies. The approval was given by a voice vote at the end of a three-hour clause-by-clause consideration, rejecting all opposition amendments.

Replying to the marathon debate, the finance minister ruled out any further tax concessions. He assured members that the rising trend in prices will be reversed from the first fortnight of next month with the arrival of the new crop and the impact of monetary reforms. Dr. Manmohan Singh announced that arrangements have been made to import edible oils to improve supplies in the domestic market. Firmly turning down the demand for a raise in the income tax exemption limit, the finance minister said every section, including the salaried class, has to shoulder the burden till the country's fiscal system becomes viable. He, however, said that the demand will be considered as part of the rationalization and the simplification of the tax structure now being examined by a committee.

State Head Denies Immediate Legislation on Shrine

BK1509115491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh government has issued an ordinance to continue 27 percent reservation for the backward classes in state government services. The state chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, told the AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent Munni Lal that the step has been taken as the earlier ordinance promulgated by the Mulayam Singh Yadav government for providing reservation has lapsed. He said that the state government is considering a proposal to extend reservation to the poor.

In reply to a question, the chief minister categorically stated that the state government has no plan for the time being to bring forward legislation to acquire the disputed land in Ayodhya for the construction of the Sri Ram Temple.

Remote Sensing Satellite Fully Operational

BK1609163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The second Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-1B, launched on the 29th of last month has become fully operational. An official press release issued in New Delhi today says the detailed testing of all its subsystems and payloads has been completed. All the systems on board the satellite are functioning normally.

Indigenously Built Satellite Slated for Launch

BK1709062091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The indigenously built (?free) first satellite in the INSAT-2 series will be launched in March next year. The Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, chairman, Dr. U.R. Rao told newsmen in Bangalore yesterday that the satellite will be put into space by the Ariane-launch vehicle. He said several countries have evinced keen interest in the pictures sent by the IRS-1 now in orbit.

Iran

Tehran Said Ready for Final Hostage Settlement

PM1609133191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Sep 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Approves Perez de Cuellar's Six-Phase Plan; Release of All Hostages and Captives in Middle East Before Peace Conference"]

[Text] Tehran—SAWT AL-KUWAYT sources in the Iranian capital have confirmed that the hostages issue has reached the stage of a final comprehensive settlement following Tehran's approval of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan. It should be noted that two of the main parties invovled in the overall deal, that is Israel and those holding the Western hostages, are awaiting the results of Perez de Cuellar's talks in Tehran before taking more steps toward the final settlement.

Sources close to the decision-making circles in Tehran have told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Israel's decision to release 51 Lebanese prisoners and hand over the bodies of nine Hizballah fighters to the Red Cross in southern Lebanon has expedited Tehran's final acceptance of the Perez de Cuellar plan.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Perez de Cuellar proposed to the Iranian leadership a comprehensive plan for a final settlement of the issue of the hostages, prisoners, and detainees in the Middle East, so that there would not be a single hostage left in the region by the time the peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question starts. According to SAWT AL-KUWAYT's sources, the Perez de Cuellar plan will be implemented in six phases, the last coinciding with the end of Perez de Cuellar's term as UN secretary general. These phases are as follows:

1. The first phase: This has already started with Israel's release of 51 Lebanese prisoners. It also provides for the release of 20 more Lebanese prisoners after Israel receives documents and accurate information about the fate of two of its missing soldiers in Lebanon.
2. The second phase: Two Western hostages in Beirut will be released and the remains of one or two Israeli soldiers will be handed to the Israeli authorities.
3. The third phase: Around 100 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners will be released by Israel in return for the remains of the dead Israeli soldiers in Lebanon.
4. The fourth phase: An Israeli soldier held by Hizballah and a Western hostage will be exchanged for five Hizballah members detained in the border strip.
5. The fifth phase: All Lebanese prisoners and Islamic Jihad members held in Israel will be released in return for the release of an Israeli soldier and three Western hostages.
6. The sixth and last phase: The remaining Western hostages will be released and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd will be exchanged for Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who is held by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

An informed source in Tehran has told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Washington has reassured Tehran that it will release all the frozen Iranian assets in the United States after the implementation of all phases of Perez de Cuellar's plan. The same source said that Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director of the Middle East section at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who is currently on a visit to Lebanon, has been instructed to make the necessary arrangements for a speedy start to the implementation of the UN secretary general's plan.

In Beirut, a Lebanese minister close to Damascus confirmed yesterday that two Western hostages, one American and the other British, who may be Terry Waite, would be released within one week. He added that a third hostage may be released if there is another initiative from Israel.

Nonagression Pact With Gulf States Sought

NC1609145091 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iran is seeking a non-aggression pact with its Arab neighbours, which had been suspicious of Iranian intentions in the region until the Gulf war, a Gulf newspaper reported Monday.

The AL-KHALIJ daily, usually informed on the affairs of the Arab states that form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), also said Tehran had agreed on most points in the planned security pact between the United States and Kuwait.

In a front-page report from Kuwait and Jeddah, the United Arab Emirates daily quoted what it called informed diplomatic sources but gave no details of the Iranian proposal. A spokesman at the Iranian Embassy here said he had no information about such a proposal.

"Contacts between the GCC and Iran are dealing with an Iranian proposal to sign economic and cultural agreements, simultaneously with non-aggression pacts on a bilateral or collective basis," the Arabic language daily said. It said the contacts also covered post-war security in the Gulf and that Iran would likely be admitted in the security structure.

"Initial results of the contacts indicate that a six plus one formula (the six GCC states and Iran) concerning security in the region is likely to be reached," it said. It gave no details of the security measures but such an agreement, if signed, would exclude Egypt and Syria, which have opposed any Iranian role in Gulf security.

It was such an opposition that has apparently undermined the Damascus Declaration, which groups Syria and Egypt with the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE. The AL-KHALIJ report followed Sunday's talks in Jeddah by the GCC foreign ministers, who hailed ties with Iran and called for a new phase of cooperation on security with Iran.

Iranian and GCC foreign ministers are due to discuss security arrangements when they meet in New York this month.

AL-KHALIJ said the agreement allowed Iraq, which invaded Kuwait in August last year, to participate in the security measures after it implements United Nations resolutions on the Gulf war and its 1980-88 conflict with Iran. "After Iraq implements such resolutions, the security formula will be developed into (six plus two), allowing Iraq to participate in U.N.-sponsored security measures," it said.

In a confidence-building move, Kuwait and its GCC partners informed Iran about the proposed security pact with the U.S, which Tehran still sees as its adversary, AL-KHALIJ said. It quoted the sources as saying Iran agreed on most of the pact's articles but expressed reservation on some points.

Habibi Discusses Cooperation With GCC

LD1709025391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 91

[News conference with First Vice President Hasan Ebrahim Habibi with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 16 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Habibi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

With greetings to friends who are here, and to our good people, we begin our weekly discussion. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] held a meeting yesterday and announced its decisions. The Council has declared its support for the Damascus declaration, and has, on the other hand, called for cooperation with the Islamic Repubic of Iran. Please tell us if there were talks, beforehand, with the Iranian Government. Also, considering that the Council insists on the Damascus declaration, how can that cooperation work?

[Habibi] I have previously referred to the Damascus declaration and mentioned a few points. The Damascus declaration, as our friends in Syria have said, and became almost clear later on, is in fact a prelude, or a substitute to previous agreements that the Arab League had reached. We should consider the fact that Arab contacts were disrupted during the Persian Gulf crisis, and the Muslim, and the Arab countries in general, became separated from each other and each joined a camp. They became two main groups. Some were also neutral and some were, in fact, moderates. That is, the Arab countries' previous relations no longer existed. The gentlemen [of the GCC] had thought to create a new situation by holding the Damascus session. For that reason they used to say that the session belonged to Arab countries. [passage omitted]

We repeatedly referred to one point: The Perian Gulf is a single entity, it is inseparable, and the security of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is not possible without Iran's participation, and the presence of foreign countries does not cure any of the region's problems. [passage omitted]

Therefore, Iran's presence in the region and particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is a natural and a necessary presence for the security of the region. It is with regard to this analysis that the GCC has decided to cooperate with Iran.

During discussions with our friends and southern neighbors that we held in the past, we drew attention to a number of points. If attention is paid to those points, and if our foreign policy's fundamental principles are respected and attention is paid to those very important points, then we are ready to cooperate. In short, we would return goodwill for goodwill in our relations and would cooperate on issues, the principle of which we can agree on. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Excuse me, Doctor. Recently there have been provocations in connection with Iran in some neighboring countries, namely Turkey and Pakistan, which have been attributed to America by some of Iran's officials. Since these provocations are likely to continue, please tell us what plans the government has to combat them.

[Habibi] After the victory of the revolution, from the very first day the revolution was victorious, we have faced such conspiracies and provocations. Such things have been repeated so many times that it would really be boring to our people if we kept talking about the Tabas, Nowzheh, and other coup attempts. They were conspiracies that were hatched since the victory of the revolution. The fact of the matter is that, independent and proud, without any connection to any foreign power or ideology, not affiliated to the erstwhile East or the present West—because the East no longer exists; they have declared that they have set aside all their past claims—Iran has been able to stand on its own two feet. Consequently this country will be confronted with conspiracies every minute of every day. We should all note this; our people should note this. Anything that may undermine our internal unity in any way, or may weaken our position abroad, is undoubtedly a result of foreign conspiracy. And it is all done to weaken the system. Therefore, these conspiracies are not unusual to us.

Hiring a number of newspapers and making them raise a cry and engage in propaganda, or hiring a number of people, or even a relatively large group, is not all that strange and not too significant either, because our enemies are prepared to spend billions to weaken Iran. They cannot defeat it, but they could weaken it somewhat, if those conspiracies bear fruit. They can spend a great deal of money. Unscrupulous people who would be prepared to do these things can be found here and there. There are hireling newspapers that are prepared to talk against the interests of another country for a small sum of money. There are also people who are prepared to answer these conspiracies.

These are events that are taking place around us. However, it is the wisdom of the authorities of those countries that can foil all these plots, or nip them in the bud. His Excellency Ishaq Khan said during his stay in Iran: We are aware of these plots. We should not get entangled in these plots, or fall into their traps. He also said some things about unity among the people of Pakistan, be they Shiite or Sunni, and their deep friendship with Iran. That is the right course of action which can solve the problems. Things said by officials of a country, for the sake of the interests of that country, against another country are signs of immaturity, negligence, or incorrect analysis. [passage omitted]

SNSC Session Views Gulf, UN Resolution 598

LD1409153191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] held a session this evening chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders.

In the session, the UN secretary general's latest efforts to implement Security Council Resolution No. 598 were examined. It was announced: the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] considers any delay in the implementation of this resolution as unjustifiable, and believes that without its implementation it will not be possible to establish security in the region.

Also in the session, reports related to the deployment of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region were discussed. It was announced: In spite of the guarantees provided by the diplomatic community in terms of preventing a long-term deployment of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, the IRI will continue to regard the issue with concern.

Khamene'i Warns of Cultural War Against Islam

LD1609213591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpts] His Eminence Aytollah Khamene'i, the Leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning at the seventh gathering of the Friday Imams from all over the country made a speech issuing a warning and drawing the attention of the Friday Imams to the all-out cultural war that the enemies of Islam and the revolution are waging against the Islamic Republic of Iran, resorting to some very cunning methods. He emphasized the necessity of attracting people's sentiment and trust, particulatrly the youth, toward the blessed Friday prayer sites.

The gathering was held at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque. [passage omitted]

He said the officials think the country's economy is at a bright spot. They have chosen a correct, logical, and defendable path to achieve the goals of the economic programs. We ought to be optimistic about the future of those programs.

In the management of the country and the general progress toward our revolutionary goals, we are following a clearer, more accurate, and stronger course than before. It is for this reason that enemies are resorting to more sophisticated conspiracies against the Islamic Republic.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the collapse of the heretic Marxist ideology followed by a big empire led by the world devourer, America. Referring to a few verses of the Holy Koran, he said: In the single front of infidelity and arrogance, differences of opinion and conflicts are so extensive that the faithful, opportunist, and wise people can take advantage of these to achieve divine goals. Today Islam is the only ideology that has risen against the entire world's materialist power and the dangerous empire of the West. conspiracies

The leader of the Islamic revolution went on to point out the colonialistic policies of the Western empire in Africa, Latin America, and some Asian countries. He said: Thanks to the correct and revolutionary interpretation by our great Imam , which he called pure Mohammadan Islam, Islam is the now only strong trench, platform and hope for justice-seeking people, who have stood up to the muscle-flexing of the arrogant. Islam draws nations to itself. Liberal youths in the remotest parts of the world have set their hopes on the Islamic system and see salvation from the injustices of arrogance by seeking the help of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

He described the economic blockades and assorted political pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran as the weapons used by the enemies of Islam in the present conditions of Islam Iran. Condemning pretenders who, in the name of defending human rights, have waged war on the Islamic system, he said: Those who have gone to war against the Islamic Republic with the weapon of human rights believe that man has no rights. If they believed in any rights for man they would only want it for western man. They are prepared to sacrifice thousands of non-western human beings to safeguard their own well-being. They are deceitful people who use the human rights slogan as political pressure on the Islamic Republic.

In another part of his speech His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the existence of a deep cultural conspiracy against the Muslim and revolutionary youths of Iran as a real and evident fact. He said: Today, using extremely cunning and evil methods, the enemies of Islam have embarked on a full-scale cultural war against our nation. They are bent on gradually corrupting our young generation, who are the defenders of the country and ever-present on the scenes of work, action, self-construction, training, science, research and progress. They strive to influence the younger generation with their various propaganda and drive them away from the sacred realities of Islam, which are recognised as the main pillars of faith.

The leader of the Islamic revolution described as a necessity defending and correct conveying the realities, principles, bases and tents of Islam, in order to neutralise the cultural invasion of the enemies. Stressing the importance of the duties of Friday Imams in that respect, he said: Friday Imams should strive to correctly convey and interpret Islamic concepts, monotheism and divine rule, and also the defence of man's observance of divine decrees, for this will have a boundless effect. Instilling the word of God in the hearts of the people, making the Friday prayers attractive centres and attracting the feelings and faith of the people is a grave responsibility that the Friday Imams must perform.

He described diagnosis and cure for the ideological, cultural and spiritual ailments of the society as one of the most important duties of Friday Imams. He added: The people regard the Friday Imams as those who answer their questions. They expect the imams to solve their problems. In the era when the reigns of power are in the hands of the Muslims the enemy tries more than ever to erase Islamic concepts from the minds. It is necessary for Friday Imams to review methods of curing and solving ideological and spiritual ailments and problems of the people. For Friday prayers are where hearts are made more robust and faiths are fortified and God's soldiers are given bravery and the courage to act.

Finally, the leader of the Islamic revolution described the clergy as the people's hopes and spiritual platform. He said: Friday Imams are representatives of all the clergy and the Islamic system. Therefore, current political issues and analyses should be correctly, deeply and accurately conveyed from the sacred podium of the Friday prayers. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Denies Rumor of Army-IRGC Merger

LD1609135791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 91

["Text" of message from Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, IRGC, commanders and officials participating in a gathering marking the formation of the IRGC at its headquarters in Tehran on 16 September —read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Negative competition among different personnel and various sectors, giving ground to rumors and suspicion is a dangerous illness that must never find its way to the young and strong body of the guards. [passage omitted]

Cooperation and close ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army is the constant duty of the IRGC and it was repeatedly advised by the deceased Imam [Khomeyni], sanctified be his soul. This must not be forgotten for a single instant. These two powerful arms, which stand alongside each other with clear and specific duties for defending the revolution and the country, must move in a coordinated manner.

The enemy is still trying to spread, anywhere and in any way, the rumor that the Army and the IRGC are to be merged. It tries to inflict blows, at every opportunity, on the morale of one of these two devoted armed organizations. It is incumbent upon everyone, especially commanders, to foil the negative effects of this hostile maliciousness.

Popular mobilisation [basij] is a great and blessed support which has proven its unparalleled worth in various arenas. We must honor this sacred reserve force. And we must advance it by the day in the fields of organization, training, and discipline. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 16 September 91

Yazdi Sermon From Friday Prayers Reported

LD1309150391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Second sermon of the Friday prayers delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in Tehran on 13 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Recognition and Basis of Human Rights in Our Country seminar was held over the past few days to answer the question: What are human rights and on what are they based? As you know, many thinkers from inside the country and abroad participated in the session. The UN General Assembly issued a 30-article statement on human rights around 43 years ago, known as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. From that day forth, all the member countries are committed to that declaration. [passage omitted]

Of course, you know that a declaration was issued by the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO] entitled Islamic Human Rights. The penultimate ICO session in Tehran and the last session in Cairo were mandated to formulate something based on the Islamic principles that would overcome the weak points and shortcomings of the UN Declaration. [passage omitted]

I imagine that this issue is political. It is used as a lever against certain countries: one country has denied human rights to its citizens, the other country abides by them. Our country was one of those countries under pressure up until last year. Every year, in all sessions and commissions—even in the UN General Assembly—it was said: Iran is on the list of those countries that deny human rights. I would like to add one point and say to those in authority positions: The human rights issue is not only a political tool used in the world but also a very deep judicial matter. Currently, even when used as a lever to exert pressure, they rely on judicial issues. That session and future sessions must see to this issue. [passage omitted]

Let me open the discussion. In Islam, we have hodud and ta'zirat. Hodud are those punishments stipulated by God. He has stated the punishment for some offenses. [passage omitted]

These are things which are inherent to Islam. Many of them are cases which are not alterable under any circumstances. They cannot be changed at any price. No official can change, remove, lessen, or increase them. There are cases for which capital punishment is stipulated. I have already stated it once from this tribune and given a list. Capital punishment exists in many countries, and in some countries, where it has been banned, it is being discussed once again; there are discussions about implementation in some cases.

Let us ask the International Declaration on Human Rights what is to be done under these circumstances: We are free to choose our religion; the people of this country have chosen Islam in full freedom and have accepted the rule of Islam; they have brought about the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [crowd chants in support] [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, in a Declaration on the extent of religious freedom, it even states the right to change one's religion. It makes the right to change one's religion part of the freedom of religion. However, there are commands in a religion itself governing the changing of religion. I am not allowed to pursue that argument. What can one do with such arguments? Where should they be resolved? [passage omitted]

We have repeatedly stated that Islam has the richest basis for human rights, and Islam has the strongest implementational means for safeguarding human rights. If we make this claim from such a tribune, we can prove it with the utmost strength and power put at our disposal by Islam. [crowd chants in support]

Following German unity, I told the Islamic Republic of Iran's first ambassador before his departure that Europeans rely very much on their legal sources. They think they really have the richest available sources because a number of countries that have reestablished their independence within recent decades have used those sources to write their Constitutions. As you are aware, even our previous Constitution used the European legal sources up to a point. They think they have the best reasoning. We announce our readiness to work with first class personalities—or at any level they would like—at a gathering somewhere—in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Europe, or anywhere they prefer—to prove that they do not truly have the richest available legal sources. I accept the fact that our government has less experience in executive affairs; however, within our government's decade of experience there have been many legal issues—marine laws; space laws; laws pertaining to a child, a mother, a partner; or tens of other cases—which were registered and previously were only considered in general terms that have been dealt with during the same decade because there existed a practical need to solve those cases. However, we remain prepared to determine that fact.

Unfortunately, there are some people who themselves think that we cannot achieve anything without consulting those sources. No, that is not the case. As I mentioned, our government and our practical experience is less, but we have sources which are a great deal richer. Therefore, I praise the nature of the work. It is very useful work. However, I draw your attention to the point that more attention should be paid to the sections which require greater practical consideration—God willing—and I am confident that better attention will be paid in that regard in the future.

I should also, in a couple of sentences, refer to His Excellency UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's visit to Tehran and mention that that organization, which believes itself to be the advocater of human rights, should naturally, under present conditions, at least work toward implementation of the rest of the clauses of Resolution 598, the resolution which he has taken the responsibility to implement. We know which clauses require more attention. Clauses six through eight are mentioned, and we hope that—God willing—that those three clauses will be implemented before the end of his term of office, after the discussions which have been or will be made. It should be determined who began, how reparations should be paid, and—God willing—his visit will facilitate implementation of other issues. [passage omitted]

Let me mention another small matter—time is gradually coming to an end—and then finish troubling you.

The tenth session of the Nonaligned Movement, in which the foreign ministers of movement members, as well as our foreign minister, were present: We know that their final document contained an issue, and, fortunately, the Islamic Republic put its finger on it. Briefly, it can be said that it was in Clauses 45 and 47, and their content was such that somehow it gave Israel and the Zionists some credit and recognition [rasmiyyat]. However, as you know, during the Islamic Republic of Iran's rule, no official, no individual, and not even one of our people has for one moment had the readiness to allow the Israeli Government the slightest recognition [haqq-e rasmi]. [crowd chants: God is Great, Death to Israel and America]

Naturally, any decision, resolution, document, or plan anywhere in the world—where we also are a member—

that intends to have the slightest reference to Israel's recognition will be unacceptable from the Islamic Republic's point of view.

A bill has been passed in the Indian parliament, after which we believe that we should not daily give reminders about the Babri Mosque and clashes in Kashmir. As you know—as I speak to you right now—the file on Babri Mosque is being debated in the Alahabad Supreme Court, and before the high judges give final verdict, one can't express a judicial opinion on one's own. However, here and now I tell the high judges of that Supreme Court, as well as high officials of the Indian central government that, for winding up the file and safeguarding the rights of not only the Kashmiri Muslims but all Muslims living in India, it is sufficient to pay more attention to the Protection of Religious Buildings Bill recently passed by parliament. We have announced many times from here that this problem relates not only to Indian Muslims but also to world Muslims. Islam is a single Ummah and is always observing current issues.

I don't know what the principle meaning of the recent U.S.-Kuwait military accord will be. Don't they have any trust or confidence in the Gulf Cooperation Council, in Egypt, or in Syria that they embark on such acts? Briefly, I say here that the U.S. presence in the region is not as some imagine, namely: the more presence, the more it assists security. On the contrary, we believe that increased U.S. presence in the region will expose regional peace to more danger. The region's peace must be planned [tanzim] by the region's people. [passage omitted]

Primakov, Delegation Arrive For Talks

LD1709095691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, special envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev, arrived in Tehran today to submit the Soviet president's message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. On arrival in Tehran, Mr. Primakov, in an interview with our reporter, said: We are two neighbor countries with very extensive ties, and I believe there is potential for the further extension of these ties.

Mr. Besharati, the Foreign Ministry under secretary who met him at the airport, said: Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet president, has constantly endeavored to promote the ties between our two countries, and our relations have never been as warm as they are today. He added: The delegation accompanying Mr. Primakov will be holding talks with their Iranian counterparts on issues of mutual interest.

It should be noted that a high-ranking political-economic delegation is accompanying Mr. Gorbachev's special envoy.

President, Lebanese Minister Discuss Hostages

LD1609191291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning. At the meeting the Lebanese foreign minister handed over a written message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He stressed the necessity of deepening the ties between Iran and Lebanon.

Referring to Iran's outstanding role in Middle Eastern and global affairs, he said: The people of Lebanon are in favor of the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also submitted a report on the activities of the Lebanese Government to liberate the southern parts of that country and secure the release of the Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his thanks about the kind message of the Lebanese president. He said: Islamic Iran wishes a prosperous future for the Lebanese nation and supports the efforts to achieve unity in that country.

Referring to the struggles of the Muslim and downtrodden people of Palestine against the regime occupying Jerusalem, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to utilize all its facilities to liberate the occupied territories in southern Lebanon. He stressed the necessity of a serious effort by the Lebanese Government to secure the release of the Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

Majles Speaker, Lebanese Minister Discuss Israel

LD1609191191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The Lebanese foreign minister and his entourage met Majles Speaker Karrubi today. At the meeting, referring to the occupation of southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime, the Majles speaker endorsed the diplomatic efforts to force the Zionist regime to evacuate Lebanon and stressed the necessity of deploying military means alongside diplomatic efforts.

He declared the readiness of the Majles to expand ties with the Lebanese parliament and expressed the hope that the participation of Lebanese officials, including that country's parliamentary officials, at the international conference on support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people, would provide a starting point for diplomatic ties between the two parliaments.

Bushehr Nuclear Plant To Be Completed

LD1709102691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Vice-President Amrollahi, head of our country's Atomic Energy Agency [AEA], is currently in Vienna to take part in the 35th general session of the International

Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA]. In his speech to the session, having expounded the activities of Iran's AEA, he said: In the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, peaceful use of nuclear energy is the right of all nations, and provided the entire control, and inspection measures and systems are checked, no country should be deprived of that right. Pointing to Germany's failure to implement its contracts pertaining to the completion of Bushehr's nuclear plant, he said: Iran intends to complete this project by any means possible, even through purchasing and reordering the project's withheld spare parts. Iran expects the IAEA to cooperate in all stages including the construction and activation of this plant.

Israel Urged To Release Remaining Hostages

LD1409180891 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday welcomed last Thursday's release of 51 Lebanese hostages by their Zionist captors stating that Israel and its allies should release the remaining some 400 hostages.

The editorial further added, "In the past the Iranian efforts were instrumental in getting several Western hostages back to their homes," adding, "since the UN secretary general involved himself in the issue, the hopes for closure of the hostage file have become greater and the continuous Iranian efforts may bring fruitful results."

Describing as "an encouraging sign" the release of the Lebanese hostages, the paper said that the act "should receive a favorable response."

"The issue is very complicated and sensitive and before the good intentions of the Iranian officials can be in any way marred, Israel should take further steps for the release of more Muslims."

"Today feelings of good intent can be traced among all the concerned parties and countries and none should miss this chance and do its best for the reunion of hostages and their families before their files go back again into cold storage," it concluded.

Tehran-Ankara Ties Target of U.S. 'Conspiracy'

LD1509102791 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday warned the Turkish Government against a U.S.-engineered conspiracy to halt expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations. 'ABRAR' in its editorial titled "America resorting to various means," commented on the recent remarks of some Turkish officials alleging that Iran was supporting the anti-government guerrillas in Turkey.

"Anti-Iran propaganda is launched in the Turkish press at a time when a military commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has referred to Iran, Iraq and Syria as centers of danger," wrote the article.

Informed sources believe that similar stands adopted by the Turkish officials and the NATO commander speaks of a joint vicious effort to mar Tehran-Ankara relations, wrote the paper. "While [the] Tehran government is constantly calling for strengthening and expansion of relations with her neighbours including Turkey, there is no doubt that a U.S.-designed plot is in the making to block this effort," ABRAR noted.

The sources also maintain that [the] massive presence of NATO forces in Turkey may have motivated certain Turkish officials to attempt to create a rift in relations among Muslim states. "However, Tehran has constantly called for stability and security in the region as well as cooperation and peaceful co-existence with regional countries even when she was attacked by the Baghdad regime," commented the daily.

The editorial concluded by saying that Ankara government should not promote a rift in the ranks of Muslim countries and should beware that domination of the U.S. and NATO in the region would not be in the interest of Turkey either.

Interference in Regional Security Feared

LD1409124791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0959 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Maintaining Persian Gulf security was one of the main topics of the talks between several foreign politicians and our country's authorities in the past few days. According to UN Security Council Resolution 598, whose acceptance ended the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq, the security of the Persian Gulf will be attained through consultation among the countries of the region. In addition, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which includes the six Arab southern littoral states, has signed a statement with Egypt and Syria which is said to be capable of maintaining the security of the region and offering a new security structure for the region. But, this plan, known as the Damascus Declaration, resorts to countries outside the region for maintaining and safeguarding the security of the region. This is inconsistent with the principle of maintaining security only through regional states.

Meanwhile, the United States Government, which led the international coalition in the recent war against Iraq, has signed an accord with Kuwait to deploy forces in Kuwait for ten years and to maintain that county's security. There is no doubt that the accord is contrary both to the principles contained in the (UN) Security Council Resolution 598 and the Damascus Declaration.

Now, in the UN secretary general's regional visit, which began in Tehran, Persian Golf security is the main topic of discussion. The secretary general, who is currently talking with Saudi authorities, intends to visit the other members of the GCC.

The important point which must be kept in mind is the necessity for increased coordination and consultation among regional states. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has endeavoured to expand and improve her relations with the regional states. Although the imposed war adversely affected relations with some of the regional states, after the ending of the war relations improved and regional consultations have greatly increased. Right now, Iran's relations with the six members of the GCC enjoy unprecedented growth. The probable visit by our country's president to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia is a sign of the culmination of the improvement of those relations. The foreign ministers of Iran and the GCC are to meet and confer on the fringe of the forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

Iran, the GCC, and, in the future, Iraq, enjoy wide possibilities for economic cooperation. So far, effective and separate steps have been taken for the promotion of economic ties between Iran and the littoral states of the southern Persian Gulf. Nonetheless, considering the necessity of a security system for the region, it seems that reaching a complete understanding and determining a specific plan which is immune from the interference of outsiders, can be the main foundation of future economic and political relations.

Pakistan

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Influence on UN

BK1709101391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Sep 91 p 6

[Editorial: "America's United Nations"]

[Text] The 46th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly opens today amidst increasing calls for changes in the world body. The UN's performance in the past year has been a sorry one. Its role in the Gulf War has earned it criticisms of double standards in implementing resolutions and of being a tool of the United States. The indecent haste in execution of Security Council Resolution 678, which authorised the use of force against Iraq, contrasted sharply with the UN's inertia on longstanding Security Council Resolutions on Kashmire, Palestine and Cyprus which remain unimplemented. What became evident was the fact that no UN Security Council Resolution can be successfully implemented without American willingness to do so and without America guaranteeing its enforcement, by military means if necessary. President Bush's upstart remarks after the Gulf War—that American "objectives sanctioned by international law, have ben achieved"—did nothing to allay fears that double standards and United States guarantee played the major role in making possible the international response to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. His call on the UN to become a primary instrument of his "new world order" only enhanced apprehension that the UN has become an instrument of Washington.

The opportunity exists during this current General Assembly session for the UN to change its lot by appointing a dynamic talented man with initiative and drive to the top job of Secretary General as Javier Perez de Cuellar's second term ends in December. Although the real decision-makers in the appointment are the big powers, i.e., the five permanent members of the Security Council, the General Assembly has the power to reject the candidate recommended by the Security Council. Notwithstanding the powers of the Security Council, the General Assembly has the advantage of numbers—seven new members, including the three Baltic States, are expected to be admitted this year, increasing the UN membership to 166—a power which it has rarely exercised. In addition, members of the General Assembly can also suggest and pursue proposals for reforming the UN structure that would loosen the big power's strangehold. The United Nations is what its members are. Responsibility for changing the fate of the UN lies with its member states.

From day one, the United Nations was the instrument to ensure peace in a bi-polar world. Soon after its birth, the UN ran into the foul weather of a ferocious Cold War. What sustained it despite all the pulls and pressures of two giants in the fiercest possible animosity short of a declared total war was the bitter bipolarity of the world. This was a blessing in disguise. Neither could ride roughshod over the smaller members, that is, not with utter impunity. The situation on the ground today is essentially different. There is one giant and the rest of the world community without the kind of cohesion needed to provide a reliable balance. How the United Nations performs in this unfamiliar state of something like the weightlessness of outer space is not easy to divine. This is uncertainty of a sort which would leave the smaller and weaker members with much unease. And this should be incentive enough for them to get closer and be saner than they have been over the past 45 years of a pretty unpredictable United Nations.

Islamabad, Tehran Agree on Intra-Afghan Dialogue

BK1609162991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran agreed on the start of the intra-Afghan dialogue for a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan told newsmen at a briefing in Islamabad today that Kabul regime chief Dr. Najibollah will not participate in such a dialogue. He disclosed that an indication to this effect has come from the Kabul regime itself. He clarified that although no procedure for a dialogue among Afghan factions has yet to evolve, Pakistan and Iran hope that the UN secretary general will take steps in this regard through his special envoy. He said during the talks between the heads of state of the two countries in Tehran, the two sides fully agreed to the need for a political settlement of the problem on the basis of the five-point plan of the United Nations. He also referred to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's meeting with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in Tehran, during which the Afghanistan problem figured prominently. He described this meeting as very useful, during which many points were cleared up.

Pakistan welcomed the U.S.-Soviet accord to stop military aid to all Afghan groups provided the agreement is implemented faithfully and it helps accelerate the process of negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the problem. The foreign secretary told newsmen that Pakistan hopes that all arms supplies as outlined in the agreement will be stopped after the deadline and the interim period before the deadline will not be used to stock up supplies. Pakistan's consistent position has always been that the question of an arms supply cutoff should form part of a package which should also include issues of a transitional mechanism, the cease-fire date, and facilities for the return of refugees as contained in the UN plan. All these issues should be discussed and finalized under that package.

Answering a question, the foreign secretary said that during the talks between the two sides, Pakistan was consulted on the question of stopping the supply of arms and Islamabad had informed them of its viewpoints.

Solution of Afghan, Refugee Problems Stressed

BK1609113291 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Sep 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Gathering Storm"]

[Text] Our Foreign Office is variously reported to have noted, partly welcomed or accepted with some vague qualifications the US-USSR agreement to stop all manner of aid to their respective pawns in Afghanistan. In plain words the Soviet Union would not send any aid to the regime in Kabul headed by the controversial Gen Najibollah and, it doesn't have to be said, the US would hold its hands in respect of the Mojahedin in Pakistan. First, note the irony as exemplified by the superpower ethics. The USSR inflicted itself upon Afghanistan with a mighty force. The US jumped into Afghanistan for its own imperialistic Cold War considerations. The result was a 12-year-old enforced civil war in Afghanistan, both superpowers fuelling it with demonic recklessness, regardless of the human misery it was to cause to millions of people who had not started the war and would never have wished to get involved in fratricidal bloodshed. It was all a monstrous game between the US and the USSR. Now, the two have made it up and agree that Afghanistan be left to its misery. Both will stop all aid from January 1, 1992. Quite obviously, the Afghan people are on the verge of a very long, cold and wretched winter.

But that is by no means the worst part of the story as it has now begun to unfold. For Pakistan the disquieting message has to be read between the lines. And it is that the US and the USSR are washing their hands of the Afghan problem. If Pakistan (and by clear implication, also Iran and their Afghan guests) join the superpowers in solving the Afghan problem the way they wish, it is welcome to the table. If not, Pakistan and its clients can go to blazes. There would be a solution without Pakistan and Co. The manner in which the US is going about its New World Order, and the manner in which the Soviet Union is so pleased to oblige it, the United Nations cannot be expected to be anything but willing to go along as guided by the US-USSR couple. Time and tide, now represented by this formidable combination, would wait for no one in Afghanistan and most surely not for Pakistan and the virtually lost tribe of 3.5 [as published] Afghans with their horrifying divisions and animosities which we once played with during dictator Zia's lunatic era. We were feeling great, playing host to so many Afghans because at that time it was bloody good business for all in Zia's court.

So, where do we stand now in the Afghan context as it is shaping for tomorrow? Continue to make a demon of Najib and refuse to talk to anyone in Afghanistan? That he is a thoroughly disagreeable person is beyond doubt. Equally true is the fact that our clients are also an intolerably tiresome lot. And we know it. If we do not act wisely now, the chances are that these warring Afghans may at some stage in the near future become a hell of a problem for us. When rations and cash cease to flow all they would be left with would be their Kalashnikovs. And if they do not turn towards their own land, where would they turn to, Kalashnikovs in angry hands? An exceedingly fearsome prospect, isn't it? What a terrible Zia legacy! For God's sake do something now and something wise, please.

Iranian Embassy Protests Group's Demonstrations

LD1409214891 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 14 IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Saturday protested demonstrations by the schismatic Wahhabi groups against the Islamic Republic in some Pakistani towns which are deliberately timed with the visit to Iran of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

An Iranian Embassy staff member met Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Salim today, and refuted allegations against the Iranian consul in Lahore.

He called for disciplinary action against the Wahhabi elements in Pakistan who were responsible for blasphemous insults against the sanctities of the Islamic revolution.

"The allegations against Iran have been levelled by elements who hate to see the improvement in relations between Iran and Pakistan," he said, and deplored that the real aim of the Wahhabis is to impair the relations between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, as is evident by the timing of their demonstrations.

The Iranian ambassador in Islamabad, Jawad Mansouri, is currently in Iran because of the Pakistani president's official visit to Iran.

Khalid Salim in response offered assurance that the Pakistani Foreign Ministry would see to the issue with a view to ensuring that it will not leave any unfavorable impact on relations between thw two countries.

During the past few days a group of Wahhabis staged ragtag gathering in some towns, and set ablaze the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They also called for interrogating the Iranian consul in Lahore in relation with a raid by local Muslims against an assembly of Wahhabis in Jhang on September 6.

The raid against reportedly left four of the "Sahabah Corps" of the Wahhabis dead. At the time the Iranian consul in Lahore was on a home visit to Tehran.

PRC Minister on Prospects for Improved Trade

BK1209021691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Gu Yonjiang has said the trade balance between PRC and Pakistan will improve owing to his government's policy to increase imports from Pakistan on a priority basis. Speaking at Karachi today, he said PRC will purchase hides and other commodities from Pakistan. He called upon exporters to set up exhibition centers for their products in each other's country.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Reasserts Right To Dissolve Parliament

BK1709094091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, has reiterated that the impeachment resolution against him has elapsed with the prorogation of Parliament. In a letter to the speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, he also maintained that he is not barred from dissolving the parliament. The president said that he will abide by the stand taken earlier by the attorney general in this regard. The president's letter is in response to the letter written by the speaker to him last Saturday wherein he had stated that he had admitted the impeachment resolution as it fulfills all the constitutional provisions.

As already reported, parliamentary group of the ruling party is meeting tomorrow to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, eight soldiers and an unspecified number of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants have been killed in continuing fighting between government forces and the militants in Mullaitivu area of the northern province. Official sources in Colombo said that 30 soldiers were injured. Bodies of four Tamil youths were recovered in Batticaloa. They are suspected to have been killed by the LTTE.

Reportage on Fighting Around Mullaitivu District

Anti-LTTE Operation Detailed

BK1309115491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are reported to be engaged in a hand-and-hand fight in the Weli Oya area in Mullaitivu. The Army operations at Mullaitivu is code named Operation (Akkurapara). This was disclosed by Colonel Sarath Munasinghe of the Army headquaters at a weekly news briefing in Colombo yesterday. Detailing the operation at Mullaitivu, he said the the operation is now centered on southwest of Mullaitivu. There are 14 jungle bases operated by the LTTE. The whole area is codenamed as 14-Base by the LTTE. Some of these bases are believed to be nonfunctioning.

The operation at Mullaitivu commenced on the 29th of last month, but no confrontation took place upto the 2d of this month. During this period, the troops advanced alongside. This was shown with video clippings. Col. Munasinghe added that operation (Akkurapara) overran the Suganthan camp on the second of this month. This is considered to be one of the important camps as far as the LTTE is concerned, because advance training course had been conducted at this camp. He said thousands of LTTE cadres have been trained there. Col. Munesighe disclosed that the troops are now advancing to overrun another LTTE base calld Michael camp, the main logistic base for the LTTE. He said they might even come across another camp before they deal with the Michael camp. The distance between the captured Suganthan camp and Michael camp is about three km. The area is heavily mined and is thick jungle. Col. Munasinghe disclosed that according to the intelligence information, the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, moved into this 14-Base area in Mullaitivu around 10th of October 1987 and was practically living in this area up to the launching of Operation Balawegaya.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe, responding to a question, said that it was customary for the president to address Parliament soon after a prorogation. He said that the expelled UNP [United National Party] members of parliament cannot use the UNP banner for their propaganda meetings. Eight members of the party have (?been) expelled by the UNP executive committee recently.

In reply to questions Adviser to the President on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon said there had been no official discussions between minister S. Thondaman and the LTTE leadership. No discussions had taken place or were to take place with regard to peace talks. The government had no knowledge of it. He told newsmen that preparations were underway for the holding of the sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in Colombo in November as scheduled.

3 LTTE Military Wing Leaders Killed

BK1409121691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] military wing leaders, including the commander of the [word indistinct] Base ¼ Complex at Mullaitivu were among a large number of terrorists killed in a heavy fighting yesterday as the security forces battling through a large mine field and network of well-fortified bunkers overran the forward defended localities of Camp Michael, the largest LTTE logistics base in the Mullaitivu District. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one of the terrorists killed was commander of the 14th base located in the thick jungles of (Nettikaikulam) in Weli Oya.

Meanwhile, THE TIMES OF INDIA reports that in the statewide swoop on suspected LTTE supporters, over 20 persons have been arrested in the past two days from six towns, including Madurai, Erode, and Coimbatore. Report states that crackdown comes in the wake of the chief minister Jayalalitha's recent statement that elements supporting the LTTE would be hauled up under the National Security Act.

Troops Consolidate Position

BK1509113891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Troops of the Lightning Strike operation are now engaged in clearing and consolidating their position in and around the LTTE base Camp Michael in the Mullaittivu District. The forces encountered heavy resistance from the terrorists since Friday [13 September]. Ten LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed in confrontation with the security forces. Security forces of Operation Lightning Strike overran the forward defense positions of Camp Michael on Thursday. Meanwhile, a woman was arrested by the police at the harbor jetty in Trincomalee with explosives. The arrest was reported by the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense.

Over 500 LTTE Militants Killed

BK1609114491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Indian news reports state that Prabhakaran [leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE] has sent messages to LTTE cadres in Tamil Nadu to immediately return to Sri Lanka to avoid capture by the Tamil Nadu police there. Two Sri Lankan Tamils were taken into custody and 60 gelignite sticks and eight detonators seized from them near Dhanushkodi.

Over 500 LTTE terrorists have been killed by the security forces in Operation Lightning Strike at Weli Oya, Mullaittivu, which entered its 17th day yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to latest reports, ground troops backed by air cover have overcome stiff enemy resistance and moved within 500 yards of the main base camp, Michael. The security forces encountered heavily concentrated prepared defenses consisting of mines and booby traps which were enhanced by almost back-to-wall terrorist resistance. The sources said heavy fighting was continuing as security forces penetrated the LTTE defenses and reached their way forward. Official sources said that 75 terrorists were killed in yesterday's fighting bringing their total losses at Weli Oya to over 500.

Meanwhile, clandestine LTTE radio transmissions monitored yesterday stated that the terrorists had suffered heavy casualties and that government troops were everywhere attacking the ¼ base, the largest in Mullaittivu District. The LTTE also confirmed in local transmissions on Thursday [12 September] evening that 400 of their cadres have been killed in the current battle at Weli Oya.

Success in Anti-LTTE Operation

BK1709112691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Reports from battlefield at Weli Oya states that the fall of the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] main base camp Michael is now imminent. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that heavy fighting continued yesterday as ground troops backed by strong artillery fire and air support began closing in on camp Michael amidst fierce resistance. Troops in operation Lightning Strike having gained a further 100 meters on Sunday moved forward relentlessly. The air force planes yesterday pounded enemy positions and softened them up for the advancing ground troops fighting their way through minefields, a large network of well-fortified bunkers and heavy terrorist rocket and small-arms fire. The LTTE suffered heavy losses in yesterday's fighting, bringing the total number of terrorist casualty to around 580 dead and 700 wounded.

Meanwhile, naval gunboats have effectively blocked LTTE movement on the seas of the Mullaitivu coast and prevented the wounded terrorists being evacuated or reinforcement being sent in from the sea.